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WORD HISTORIES

WORD HISTORIES

 *A GLOSSARY OF UNUSUAL*
WORD ORIGINS    

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TO MY WIFE

FOREWORD

Words, like individuals, have their histories. English words, for the most part, are either direct translations, or descendants, so to speak, from another language, or are Anglo-Saxon words, used today substantially in the same sense as they were in pre-Norman days. As the scope of this volume is necessarily limited, the words listed include mainly those that have wandered, in varying degrees, from their original meanings. For example, the title "Duke" is omitted because it is directly descended from French "duc", which in turn is from Latin "dux, ducis", a leader. On the other hand "Lady" justifies its place here for the reason that its progenitor is Anglo-Saxon "hlaefdige", a kneader of the loaf, the woman who prepared bread for the oven. The social climbing of such a word furnishes a temptation to refer to its development as its *genealogy* and to forget that the science of word origins is *etymology*.

The words in this volume were assembled to satisfy a curiosity aroused by a study of Old English, particularly in connection with researches made into Anglo-Saxon laws and charters. It was during the course of such a study that the many engaging

“word personalities” attracted my interest, and with the enthusiasm of a collector, I have yielded to the temptation of including other specimens encountered during many years of the practice of law, where the background of a word seemed to warrant it. The present edition is a revision and enlargement of a volume which first appeared in England in 1935.

WENDELL HERBRUCK

December, 1940

PREFACE

Old English, or Anglo-Saxon, is a language which few would now understand. With its roots in Teutonic soil, it developed under the Roman invasion, and was nourished by the subsequent overrunning of the British Isles by the Danes, the Angles, the Saxons and other races of northwest continental Europe. The greatest changes in the language were, however, those that followed the battle of Hastings and the business-like conquest of all things Anglo-Saxon that commenced with the Domesday Survey. The briefest study of the development of English from the advent of William until the death of Elizabeth will produce sufficient evidence to disclose that the Normans were victorious in 1066 and continued in power without reference being had to a political history of England.

With the Normans came a new political and social structure; new rules of law, new land tenures, a new administration of Justice, a new ruling class—in time, practically everything was changed and new words were used to describe and define the new order, which, however, continued to center about the King, whose title remained an Anglo-Saxon word, and one that the conquered English

could understand. Evidence of the conquest appeared in all the words thereafter introduced by the French to describe the Norman sovereignty and to embellish the dignity of the conqueror. In this group of words are palace, duke, throne, realm, royalty, regal, homage, sceptre, reign, sovereign and chancellor. Prince and count and duchess are of continental origin, but King and Queen were names long before used by the rulers of the British tribes. Few titles of great dignity have developed from the homely beginnings of the Anglo-Saxon social structure. Conspicuous as exceptions to this rule, for their lowly origin are the titles 'Lord' and 'Lady', one, in Anglo-Saxon times, the guardian of the loaf and his wife the kneader of the dough or loaf.

Quite naturally the English became the serving and the working class and in the kitchen and the field we find preserved the words which those who served there could understand.

In the barn ¹ and field the farmer worked with flail, and *plough*, *sickle*, and *spade*. He fed the *ox*, the *steer*, the cow and the calf. His was the house and home, his *master's* the *residence* or the *palace*. The Anglo-Saxon kept the words hearth and the home with its roof and floor, and the kitchen with its oven and pots. Of French origin are *dining-room* and *parlor* with their *tables*, *carpets*, *tapestry* and *chairs*. In the kitchen was the stove and bench

¹ Words in bold type are of Anglo-Saxon origin. Those in italic are of French or Latin extraction.

and the first of table implements, the knife, and the later addition of the spoon. At the table the *fork* was added for the *banquet* although unnecessary for the ordinary meal. The *diner* used *bib* or *napkin*, superfluous to those who ate at the rough oak boards in the kitchen. The 'blackguards' of the palace were the cooks, their helpers and the maids, who washed and cleaned and swept. The farmers worked with wheat, rye, oats and barley, the staples among food stuffs, but these were made more palatable by the addition of *salt*, *spice*, *sauce* and *salad*. It is interesting to notice that milk is an Anglo-Saxon word and cream of French origin.

Among the meats the farmer knew the steer, which when roasted or broiled became *beef*. This same difference between the animal in the field and on the table applies to calf and *veal*, sheep and *mutton*, swine and *pork* and deer and *venison*.

At a later time *cards* were played and such words as *trump*, *ace*, *deuce* and *trey* were introduced.

In general the parts of the body such as head, eye, ear, nose, mouth, finger and arm were undisturbed, as were the words used for the simplest articles of apparel as, clothes, waist, shirt and woollens. But *cloak*, *garment* and *gown* were imported from the continent. The housewife spun and sewed, while the *mistress* *crocheted* and *embroidered*.

To summarize: the words of the English language with a hearty, wholesome sound have their roots almost invariably in Pre-Norman English and words

that accompanied the introduction of the amenities into our social life are of French or Latin origin.¹

In their contacts with the Anglo-Saxon elements in England, the Norman-French who were in charge of the administration of justice and who were the first lawyers were obliged to express themselves both in French and English so that they might be understood.

The Conquerors gave us the words court, judge, decree, verdict, judgment, appeal and statutes, but to make themselves understood in the writing of contracts they were obliged to use words which both the buyer and the seller could understand and in this development of the language both English and French continued side by side, and this use has resulted in what is now looked upon as pure repetition. In modern legal documents are found combinations of words no longer necessary, but which were at one time essential. A lawyer will still say that a contract is 'made and *entered* into' so that one party may 'sell, *assign*, *transfer* and set over' to another 'all his right, *title* and *interest in* and to' certain property. Or in a deed the grantor may 'give, *grant*, *bargain*, sell and convey' or he may 'let and *lease*' a property 'for and *during*' a certain

¹ It is, of course, not to be assumed that all the Romance words which have been referred to were introduced immediately after the Conquest. Many of them came into the language centuries later, but their use almost invariably identifies the place of their nativity.

term of years. Other combinations frequently found in legal documents are: 'work and *labor*', 'to *have* and to hold', 'give and *devise*', 'of every kind and *nature*' and 'last will and *testament*'.

Most of the words of duplicated meaning used by lawyers are pairs, made up of terms, each of which is clearly understood by the legal draftsman. An exception to this general rule is the covenant of the Lessor that the premises described in a lease may be enjoyed by the lessee without 'let or hindrance'. Few who use this expression are aware that 'let' in this connection is a word of different origin and meaning than the same form used in the sense of 'permit.' The former is Old English 'lettan', meaning to hinder and the second form is 'laetan', to permit or let. The verb 'lettan' is cognate with 'late', that is, to hinder and in so doing, 'to make late'.

It is, however, easier to understand how these 'twin' expressions came into the language than to explain their continuance in legal documents up to the present time. It can be accounted for only by the timidity of a profession trained to follow precedents.

Word Histories

ABANDON. The origin of this word is illustrated by the Old French expression 'mettre à bandon'—to put under another's control, order or jurisdiction. The word which first meant only a giving up of control, later came to have disparagement attached to it, as if in explanation of the giving up of jurisdiction, and finally has taken on something of a more positive nature—a casting out.

The second syllable of 'abandon' is from the Late Latin 'bannum', a decree or edict, which later was confined in meaning to a prohibition, since most decrees recited what one might not do. One form of the word still survives in the 'banns' of marriage, and another in the word 'banal' which has the meaning of commonplace,—an inheritance from the bannal mill of feudal times. Instead of grinding with their own hand mills, all peasants of the manor were obliged to use the lord's mill. They were under a 'ban' to do so; hence, the mill became common to all, and 'banal' became 'commonplace.' The 'four banal' or community oven was frequently a cause of complaint in mediaeval France and also occasionally a compulsory part of English manor life.

ABASH. This word derived from Old French 'bahir', means literally 'to cry bah' at one, or to boo, the obvious effect of which explains its present meaning, namely, to be put out of countenance.

ABATE. Literally, to beat, from Old French, *batre*. Abating a nuisance was therefore, removing it by this particular form of violence.

ABECEDARIAN. Also in the form *abcdarian*, has its root in the first four letters of the alphabet and originally meant merely one who uses the alphabet, from which developed the meaning of 'ignorant' or 'elementary'.

ABET. From Old French 'beter', is literally 'to make bite', a form of which appears in the expression 'bear baiting'. From this original sense arose, first in French, the meaning 'to urge on' as is found in the word 'abet'. It is possible that a shortened form of this word has been preserved in 'bet', which, before it developed into 'wager' had the meaning 'to egg on'.

ABEYANCE. From a Late Latin word 'badere', is, literally, to gape, or to wait with open mouth.

ABLE. Literally, handy, from the Latin 'habilis'. The expression 'to be handy at' something, has the appearance, at least, of etymological authority.

ABOMINATE. To shrink from an evil omen, from Latin 'ab' and 'omen'. The first meaning of the word was 'to dread', rather than 'to loathe'.

The taking of omens was of great importance in ancient Rome where the ceremonies were ordinarily conducted by a type of priest and the divination communicated to them through sound or sight. If unfavorable, the project was abandoned; afraid, the people shrank from the omen—hence, 'abominate'.

There is an occasional record of a disregard of an omen, or of the birds from which they are read as, for instance, the conduct of P. Claudius in the Punic War, who, when the sacred chickens refused to leave their cage, so that the augury 'ex tripudiis' could be taken, tossed them into the sea, saying, "If they won't eat, they must drink".

The flight of birds in reading omens is responsible for the words 'augury' and 'auspicious'. Augury is literally 'bird talk', from Latin 'avis', bird and 'garrire', to talk—to be garrulous. Auspicious is from the Latin 'auspicari'—an observer of birds and was later used as an adjective meaning a favorable flight of birds. The roots of the Latin word were 'avis' and 'specere'.

The right to take auguries lay originally with a few augurs, who became very important persons in politics and war, since all elections were subject to their veto and no war could be undertaken unless the 'auspices' were favorable. In war, only the commander-in-chief could take the auspices and

hence if a subordinate won a battle it was said to have been under the auspices of his superior. If the battle were lost the 'influence' of the commander often remained unnoticed.

One other word owes its origin to auguries taken from the flight of birds.. At Rome the augur stood at the summit of the Capitoline Hill. With his wand he marked off a section of the sky within which his observations were to be made. This imaginary section was called a 'templum', and from the augur's study of the movement of birds within it, arose the word 'contemplate'.

ABSORB. From Latin 'ab' and 'sorbere' means to suck in or more properly to suck 'from', since the first syllable is Latin meaning 'from'.

ABSTEMIOUS. Literally, 'away from intoxicating liquor', the root being the Latin word, temetum.

ABUNDANCE. Literally, 'from the waves', in the sense of their magnitude or of causing an overflowing. Closer to the root, unda, are the words, undulate and inundate.

ACADEMY. Garden near Athens in which Plato taught, named from Akodemos, one of the Greek demigods. After many generations of teachers the academy was laid waste in the siege of Sulla. The informal teaching of the Greek philosophers became identified with the places in Athens

where these teachers met their pupils for the daily discourse. In addition to 'Academy', three other such place names of Athenian schools are preserved: Lyceum, Garden and Porch.

The Lyceum was a shady wood near Athens dedicated to Apollo Lyceus where Aristotle taught for many years.

The Porch was a colonnade in Athens where the Philosopher Zeno and his followers met. It is reported that Zeno, a tradesman, was 'converted' to the Socratic philosophy as quickly and completely as leading churchmen were converted to the religious life some centuries later.

The Garden was a place in Athens where Epicurus taught his school of philosophy. In the earliest Athenian colleges all of the old Philosophies were taught with the exception of that of the 'Garden-School'.

ACCIDENT. Originally meant only one type of mishap, namely, a fall, from Latin 'cadere', to fall.

ACCORDION. Literally, attuned, from Late Latin, 'accordare'.

ACCOST. Literally, 'to the rib' from the Latin 'ad', to, and 'costa', rib, hence 'to bring to the side of'—'to approach' and finally 'to greet'.

ACCUMULATE. Originally 'to add to the heap', from Latin 'ad' which became 'ac' and the

noun, 'cumulus', a heap. The first syllable was, in its earliest form, the Latin word 'ad' meaning 'to'.

ACE. Literally, 'unit' or 'one' from Latin 'as'. Since at dice the ace was the lowest throw, the word at one time was used to express worthlessness and later when at cards it came to mean the card of highest value, the word itself was used to mean perfection. The 'deuce' was originally a part of the expression 'two aces' and is from the French 'deux ace'. Similarly the 'trey' at cards is a shortening of 'tres ace' or three aces. Throwing two aces at dice—the worst throw possible—led to the expression 'to play the deuce with' something.

ACHIEVE. Originally 'to come to a head with' from Late Latin, 'ad caput venire' and later the French 'a chef venir' and 'achever'.

ACME. One form of this word in Greek, 'akis' became in Latin 'acies', sharp, from which we have the words 'acute' and 'acumen'. In German there is 'Ecke', corner, and the sharp confluence of the Rhine and Mosel at Coblenz, which is known as Deutsches Eck. In Dutch this word is 'agge', which meant 'edge'—in the sense of 'sharpen', and in Old English appeared the same word in the form 'ecg', which meant anything sharp and has survived in the expression to 'egg on'—to urge, as if with a sharp point.

ACQUIRE. Originally, merely, 'to seek', from

Latin 'quaerere', which developed into 'that which was secured by seeking'.

ACRE. From 'ager' which in its Latin form meant a field of any shape or size and now any plot of ground containing 43,560 square feet. By the terms of a Statute of Edward I the acre was defined as a tract 660 feet in length and 66 feet wide. Hence, in mediaeval documents occur the expressions 'an acre long' and 'an acre broad'. The mediaeval farmer, whose fields were usually in acre units, learned that the most economical way of plowing was from end to end and for that reason his furrows were 660 feet in length—an eighth of a mile, and 'furrow-long' became 'furlong'. In Continental Europe there are still many districts where the fields are an acre or two in extent and are laid out in rectangles, the designs of which maintain the old relationship of ten feet of length to one of breadth.

The original meaning of the word acre has survived in 'God's Acre'.

The plowing of the field has also given us the word boustrophedon, from the way in which the ox, 'bous' is turned (from Greek strophes, a turning) at the end of the furrow. At one end he is turned to the right and, at the other to the left.

ACUMEN. From the Latin, meaning anything sharp, with a later limitation to sharpness in mental penetration.

ADAGE. Originally meant 'anything said'; the word is formed of Latin 'ad' to and 'agi', the root of 'aio', I say.

ADAM. A Hebrew word meaning 'man'. Eve is from the Hebrew word 'havvah', meaning 'life'. Eden is a Hebrew word meaning 'delight'.

ADAMANT. Literally, 'not tamed', from the Greek root 'damao'. In U. S. slang a person whom it is difficult to tame or influence is said to be 'hard'. Throughout the Middle Ages there was confusion in the use of this word. By some it was first used to mean the hardest metal, steel, and later referred to the diamond and by others, to mean the loadstone or magnet.

ADIEU. French, meaning literally 'to God'. 'Goodbye' is a contraction of 'god be with you' with the substitution of 'good', probably on the analogy of 'goodnight'.

ADJECTIVE. Literally 'thrown at' from the Latin 'ad', to, and 'jacere', to throw. There are more than etymological reasons for the relation between this word and 'projectile'.

ADORE. Latin, 'to speak of', from the preposition 'ad' and the verb 'orare' to speak. In turn the verb has its origin in the noun 'oris', meaning 'of the mouth'.

ADVERTISE. Literally, 'to turn to', from Latin 'advertere' with a later meaning of 'to turn attention to'. The word was used in this sense for centuries before it was given its present commercial meaning.

AERIE. Perhaps from Latin 'area', level ground, with a later meaning of a high level place for a nest. An early etymologist spelled this word 'eyrie' and justified it by saying that an Anglo-Norman word 'eye' meaning egg, was its root, and hence 'eyrie' was a place where birds laid their eggs, namely a nest.

AESTHETE. 'One who perceives', from the Greek 'aisthetes', and originally used without reference to the quality of the thing perceived or appreciated.

AFFIDAVIT. This is one of many Latin words which have come intact into English from their use in mediaeval legal documents. Affidavit is Late Latin for 'he has testified'. Other instances are: caveat, let him beware; cognovit, he has admitted, or recognized; fiat, let it be done; debenture, there are owing; alibi, elsewhere. The expression 'within the purview of the statute', has come to its present sense because certain paragraphs of mediaeval English statutes commenced with the Old French word 'pourveu', meaning 'provided'. As in the cases of 'requiem' and 'dirge', many of these Latin words

were the first words of Latin formulae, poems or statutes.

AFFLUENT. 'Flowing towards', riches, from the Latin preposition 'ad' and the verb 'fluere' to flow. From the same root are fluent and influence.

AFFRAY. From Late Latin 'ex', and 'fridare' meaning 'from the peace', or 'that which has broken the peace'. From the same root is 'afraid', an effect accompanying the fear of punishment that follows a breach of the peace.

AFFRONT. Literally, 'slap in the face', or more accurately, merely 'to the face', from the Latin 'ad' and 'frontis', meaning 'of the face'.

AFTERMATH. Literally 'after or second mowing', being a combination of Old English 'after' and 'maeth'. In this original sense the word is still used in English farm publications.

AGGRAVATE. Literally to make heavy or 'add weight to', from Latin 'aggravare'. From the same root is 'gravity'.

AGNAIL. Literally, 'a painful piece of iron', in the sense of imbedded in the flesh; by a false etymology the metal nail became confused with finger nail and 'ag' with hang, hence hangnail (Old English angnaegl)—torn skin 'hanging' at root of fingernail. The root of the first syllable of the Old

English word may be cognate with the root of the word 'anger'.

AGNOSTIC. From the Greek word 'agnostos', meaning 'unknown' or 'unknowable'. From a letter written in 1881 by R. H. Hutton we learn that this word was first "suggested by Prof. Huxley at a party held previous to the formation of the now defunct Metaphysical Society, at Mr. James Knowles's house on Clapham Common, one evening in 1869, in my hearing. He took it from St. Paul's mention of the altar to 'the unknown God'".

AGONY. From Greek 'agon', which originally meant a struggle for victory in the public games. Grote refers to the 'religious games or agones instituted by Herakles', and 'agonistics', another form of the word has survived as a branch of gymnastics. The next step in the development of the word beyond its original meaning was its connotation of 'a struggle of any kind' and finally it came to be limited to a 'mental struggle' or 'anguish of mind'. Carlyle, however, as late as 1865, must have realized the atavistic influence of the original meaning of the word when, in his life of Frederick the Great, he wrote of 'the crisis, or essential agony of the battle'.

AGUE. Literally 'sharp', from Latin 'acuta'.
v. acme.

AKIMBO. The man with his hands on his hips is older than the Middle English, 'in kenebowe',

direct ancestor of 'akimbo'. In Latin was the expression 'ansatus homo', a man like a jug handle, from the word 'ansa', a jug handle. In a sixteenth century Latin dictionary 'ansatus homo' was translated as "a man with his arms 'on kenbow'".

ALAS. Literally, 'oh wretched', from Old French 'ha' and 'las'.

ALARM. From the French—'à l'arme', a call 'to arms'.

ALBUM. Literally, white from Latin 'albus'. From the same root are albumen, albino and daub.

ALCOHOL. Literally, 'the koh'l', a powder for staining eyelids from the Arabian 'al' and 'koh'l'.

ALCORAN. This word and 'koran' meant literally 'the reading' from the Arabian 'al' and 'qoran'. v. Bible.

ALERT. From the French, 'à l'erte',—'to the lookout point!'

ALGEBRA. Literally, 'reunion of broken parts', from Arabian, aljebr; the word probably has reference to the search, by algebraic process, for unknown quantities.

ALHAMBRA. Literally 'the red house', from Arabian 'al' and 'hambra'. Later used to refer to the Palace of Moorish Kings at Granada.

ALIBI. Literally, in another (place), from Latin 'alius'—the plea that when an act took place the accused was elsewhere.

ALIMONY. From the Latin 'alimonia', meaning 'nutriment'. The present connotation of the word is the result of judicial action in those jurisdictions where judges are selected by popular universal suffrage, and has resulted in an extension of the law of 'nutriment' to a point where it could be recognized as a law of 'adornment'.

ALLEGORY. Literally, 'other narrative or speaking', from the Greek words 'allos' and 'agoria', hence, emblematic speech.

ALLEY. Literally, 'passage' from Old French 'alee'; in Continental Europe 'Allee' is a wide avenue; in U. S. 'alley' is a narrow street. Modern French has 'aller', to go.

ALONE. From 'all one'.

ALPHA. Literally, leader, or ox, from Hebrew 'alepha'. Greek name of letter A, which was the leader of the Greek alphabet. A word meaning both 'ox' and 'leader' may be accounted for by the habit of cattle walking in a single file.

ALPHABET. Literally, 'a b' from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet—Alpha and Beta.

AMARYLIS. Greek name for a country girl.

AMATEUR. French for 'lover', from Latin 'amare', hence one who cultivates a thing as a pastime.

AMBIDEXTROUS. Literally, 'right handed on both sides', from mediaeval Latin 'am' and 'dexter', hence equally dextrous with both hands.

AMBIGUOUS. Literally, 'to drive both ways', from Latin 'am' and 'agere'.

AMBITION. Originally 'going about' for votes, from Latin 'amb' and 'ere'. Thus, ambition in its primary sense was limited to political preferment.

AMBROSIA. Greek meaning 'not mortal', from Greek 'a' and 'brotos', hence, the present meaning of 'food of the gods'.

AMBULANCE. Literally, 'walking hospital' from French 'hôpital ambulant'. The 'hôpital' was dropped and the meaning of both words retained in 'ambulance'.

AMEN. Originally meant 'strength' from the Hebrew word, aman.

AMETHYST. 'Not intoxicating', from the Greek 'a', not, and 'methusko', intoxicate. Among the ancient Greeks there prevailed the belief that the stone prevented intoxication.

AMMONIA. From Greek 'ammoniakon', belonging to Ammon. The word has taken its mean-

ing from the fact that ammoniac salts are said to have been first prepared from camel dung near the temple of Jupiter Ammon in Lybia.

AMNESTY. 'Not remembering' from the Greek 'a' and 'mne'. From the same root is the word, mnemonic.

AMOEBA. From the Greek word 'amoiba', meaning 'change'. The allusion is to the constant change in form of the single-celled creature called the amoeba.

AMPERE. Unit of electric current named after M. Ampère, a French electrician.

AMUSE. Literally, stare or muse, from Old French 'muser'.

ANATHEMA. Originally from the Greek meaning 'thing devoted'. This word later took on the meaning of 'accursed thing'.

ANATOMY. Cutting up or dissecting, from the Greek words 'ana' and 'temnein', hence the science of bodily structure which is perfected by experience in dissection.

ANCILLARY. 'Hand-maid' from the Latin, ancilla, hence 'helper' or 'subordinate'.

ANECDOTE. Literally, unpublished story, from Greek 'an' and 'ekdotos'.

ANEMONE. The flower that grows on windy hill sides, gets its name from the Greek word, 'anemos', wind.

ANGEL. Originally 'messenger' from the Greek, 'aggelos' and later associated with divinity.

ANGER. Literally, trouble, from Old Norse 'angr'. See, agnail.

ANGOSTURA. Bark of tree found near town of this name in Venezuela; the town is now called Ciudad Bolivar.

ANTHEM. Responsive singing from Late Latin 'antifona'.

ANTHRACITE. 'Coal-like' from the Greek word, anthrax, coal. Bituminous is from a Latin word meaning 'pitch' or 'asphalt'.

ANTIC. Another form of 'antique'. From the original sense of 'ancient', the word in its changed form took on the meaning of quaint or unusual,—a common enough feeling of the young for the old—and finally it was used only with reference to the actions of a clown.

ANTIMACASSAR. A covering thrown over a chair as protection against macassar oil, used upon the hair.

ANTIPODES. A Latin word adopted from the Greek and meaning literally, 'having the feet opposite', that is, on the other side of the earth from us.

ANTLER. Literally 'lowest branch', or 'in front of the eyes', from Latin 'ante' and 'oculus'. In German the same sense is preserved in 'augensprosse', eye-sprout, or 'brow-antler'.

ANXIOUS. Literally, 'choked,' from Latin 'angere'.

APANAGE. 'Endowed with bread', having its root in Latin 'panis', bread. At one time the word meant a 'provision for maintenance of younger children of kings.' v. companion.

APOTHECARY. Originally the keeper of a storehouse, from Greek 'apotheke', and in English he was first, one who dealt in spices, preserves and drugs. The apothecary came to limit his wares to drugs after the separation of the Apothecaries' Company of London from the Company of the Grocers in 1617.

'Bodega', a related Spanish word for a wine shop has also been adopted in other languages, including English and German.

It is possible that English 'body' has its ultimate root in the Greek 'apotheke'.

APPAREL. To make fit or 'on a par with', from Latin 'ad' and 'par'. The use of apparel is one

of the most popular ways of 'keeping up with the Joneses'.

APRICOT. 'Early ripe', so called, obviously from the fact that it is one of the earliest fruits of the season. Apricot is a variant of Latin 'praecox', which appears in the expression 'dementia praecox'.

ARBITER. One who goes to see, from Latin 'ad' and 'bitere'. Dignity has been added to this word since its cradling.

ARCHITECT. Arch builder, from Greek 'arch' and 'tekton'; the word indicates the seriousness of arch construction in early building.

AREA. A Latin word meaning a vacant piece of ground in town.

ARENA. Literally 'sand', from Latin 'harena'. Its present meaning is accounted for by the fact that originally these places for physical combat were covered with sand, in order to absorb the blood of the wounded.

ARGOSY. Ragusa or vessel, from name of town Ragusa, on the Adriatic Sea.

ARGUE. 'To make clear', from old French 'arguer'. The root of the word expresses the purpose if not the end accomplished by argument.

ARRAIGN. Literally 'to talk reasonably with', from Latin 'ad' and 'rationare'. It is doubtful if

the legal procedure of an arraignment has undergone a development comparable to the development of the word.

ARRAS. Cloth from Arras, town in France.

ARRAY. To place in readiness, from Latin 'ad' and 'redo', that is, to be 'prepared' for appearance.

ARRIVE. Literally 'to come to the shore' from Latin 'ad' and 'ripare'.

ARSENAL. From the Arabian 'dar aḥḥina'ah', a workshop, and originally merely 'a house for art or artisans'.

ARSENIC. From an Arabian word 'azzernickl', a dye stuff, yellow in color, which in turn is taken from the Persian word 'zar', meaning gold. In the course of the history of this word through the Greek, where it had assumed the form 'arsenikon', it became confused with the word 'arsenikos' meaning male. This arose from the belief that metals possessed different sexes and, apparently, gold was considered a male metal. The connection of this word with the greenish poison now known as arsenic is unexplained.

ARTICLE. From Latin 'articulus', a small limb.

ARTILLERY. This formidable word used in 1 Samuel xx, 40, referred to the 'bow and arrows' which Jonathan gave to his son. The word is French and from the Latin 'articularius', and was

originally an instrument used for discharging any missile. 'Artillery' and 'gun', both of great importance in modern warfare, were in common use before the invention of gunpowder, with which they are now so closely associated.

ASAFETIDA. Literally, 'stinking', from the Persian words 'aga' and 'foetida'.

ASBESTOS. A Greek word meaning 'unquenchable', now difficult to understand since it refers to a fibrous mineral which under no circumstances requires to be extinguished.

ASPHALT. Literally, any material of foreign origin, from Greek 'asphaltos'.

ASPHYXIA. Literally, 'without pulse', from Greek 'sphuxos', now a death produced only by suffocation.

ASSASSIN. An eater of hashish, from the Arabian 'hashishiyy'. The Hachaschin were Moslem fanatics, eaters of the drug haschish, who, executing the orders of the Old Man of the Mountains, killed Christians, at the time of the Crusades.

ASSETS. Literally, 'to sufficiency' from Late Latin 'ad' and 'satis', with reference to property sufficient to offset liabilities.

ASSIDUOUS. Originally meaning 'to sit down to', with reference to a serious manner of attacking the problem in hand.

ASTER. A genus of plants, from the Greek word meaning a 'star'.

ASTERISK. A diminutive star, from the Greek word 'asteriskos'.

ASTONISH. Literally, thunderstriking, from Late Latin 'ex' and 'tonare'. It is obvious that 'astound' and 'stun' are from the same root.

ASTRAKHAN. Skin of young lambs, from Astrakhan in Russia.

ASYLUM. Meaning, inviolable, no right of seizure, from the Greek 'asulon'. Originally the word implied a place from which soldiers or officers were barred when pursuing a fugitive or seeking to arrest a criminal. Holding on to a ring or a knob of a church door was a common asylum in the Middle Ages. Such a ring is on the south door of Trinity Church, Stratford.

ATHLETE. A Greek word meaning 'one who contends for a prize', originally without regard to the nature of the contest, but in Athenian life the field or track races furnished the only diversion in which competition was a factor. The Olympic games were first held in Athens in the eighth century B.C. in honour of the Olympic god, and the 'Olympiad' was the period of four years which intervened between the games. The marathon race as now run is over a course of more than twenty miles

representing the distance travelled by the runner who announced the victory at Marathon to the people of Athens. See 'agony' and 'gymnasium'.

ATONE. Set 'at-one', or make reconciliation.

ATROCIOUS. A Latin word meaning 'black'.

ATROPHY. Greek word meaning 'not food', hence a state of emaciation such as produced by not eating.

ATROPINE. This poisonous substance made from the plant, 'deadly nightshade', takes its name from 'Atropos' that one of the Greek Fates who severs the thread of life, after it has been spun by Clotho and measured by Lachesis.

ATTAIN. Literally, to be able to touch, from Latin 'at' and 'tangere'.

ATTIC. Originally meant 'Greek' and later a small second story on top of a larger ground floor, as in the Athenian Pantheon.

AUBURN. Literally 'whitish' from Latin 'alburnus'. See album.

AUCTION. Literally 'to increase' as a price, from Latin 'augere'.

AUDIT. A 'hearing', from Latin 'auditus'. Originally, in its present sense this word meant an oral examination or explanation.

AUTHENTIC. Literally, done by oneself, from the Greek 'authentikos'.

AVALANCHE. From French 'à' and 'val', literally, into the valley.

AVOIRDUPOIS. From the French, meaning 'to have weight'—avoir du pois.

AZALEA. From the Greek, meaning 'dry', hence, a genus of plants in dry ground.

BABBITT. More properly known as Babbitt Metal was first made in 1839 by Isaac Babbitt born in Taunton, Massachusetts in 1799. The metal was made when Babbitt was employed by the South Boston Iron Co. He made many types of the metal, but they were all, in varying proportions, alloys of copper, antimony and tin.

BABBLE. Imitative of the half articulate talk of a baby, which word is itself an imitation of an infant's first talk: ba-ba.

BACILLUS. Literally a 'little stick' from Late Latin 'baculus', so called because of the usual shape of bacilli. The Greek word 'Baktron', stick, has through Latin, become bacterium with a plural bacteria.

BACKGAMMON. So called because pieces go back into or re-enter the game. The word is a combination of 'back' and 'game'.

BAD. Probably from Old English 'baeddel', a womanish man, which later became Middle English 'badde'. It would be interesting if this could be shown to be an etymological reflection upon feminine characteristics in a man.

BADMINTON. So called from the Duke of Beaufort's estate in England. A game with net, rackets and shuttlecock. The same estate, somewhat earlier, lent its name to a drink made of claret, sugar and soda water.

BAIT. 'Cause to bite', from Middle English 'beyton'. The ancient sport of bear baiting consisted of causing a dog to bite a bear.

BALCONY. Literally 'one ridge', a single ridge or barrier, referring originally to the rail which protected the space which we now refer to as a balcony. From Old English 'balkr' and 'one'.

BALD. The word perhaps meant 'white spot' from Old English 'ball', meaning hairless. Welsh had bal, 'with white forehead' of piebald horse, one of two colors, usually black and white.

BALE. A ball, or package of merchandise from Old High German 'balla'.

BALLAD. From Provençal 'ballada', was originally a dancing song and a doublet of the word ballet.

BALLAST. Literally 'bare' or 'mere' load from Old Danish 'bar' and 'last'. In Old English the word 'hlaest' appeared, and in modern German the word 'last' means load; a 'last' of wool is still used as a unit of measure, viz., 12 sacks or 4368 pounds.

BALLOT. Diminutive of 'ball' such as is used in secret voting. It was the 'black ball' used in balloting that indicated disapproval.

BALLYHOO. As yet unnoticed by lexicographers is the following explanation of this word which appeared in the Congressional Record late in March 1934: "In southern Ireland, in the County of Cork, there is a little town called Ballyhooly, and in this town all the residents take such an active part in any question that comes before them, political, social, economic or otherwise, that they engage in most strenuous debate, a debate that is without equal in the annals of parliamentary or ordinary discussion, and from the violence of these debates has sprung forth a word known in the English language as ballyhoo."

BANE. From Old English 'bana', meaning 'death'. The expression 'under pain of death' had no reference to the suffering accompanying the decree, but to the 'penalty' of a death sentence.

BANK. From Italian 'banca', meaning 'bench'. The first banks were conducted on benches and from this fact the name arose.

BANKRUPT. Broken bench, from Latin 'bank' and 'rupt', the past participle of 'rumpere', to break. When a mediaeval banker was no longer able to meet his obligations the bench or bank on which he operated was broken, and he was, ipso facto, out of business.

BANNISTER. A modern form of baluster, which was at first not applied to the stair rail itself, but to the bulging posts on which the rail rests.

BANQUET. Diminutive of 'bank', bench, derived from the bench-shaped tables upon which such dinners were originally served.

BANTAM. A town in Java, where these small fighting cocks were once very popular.

BAR. The rail or bar to which students were called to take a greater part in the moots of the Inns of Court in London. Those who were called to the bar and admitted to the proceedings within it were called barristers, or were said to be 'admitted to the bar'.

BARBAROUS. A Greek word meaning 'foreign'. The word is perhaps imitative of languages not understood by the Greeks. The development of this word, like the word "heathen", reflects a very common attitude toward all things foreign.

BARBECUE. From barbacoa, a crate on posts, used in Haiti. The modern American wayside barbecue is closely related to the ancient obelisk. q.v.

BARGAIN. Perhaps from *barca*, Latin, meaning a barge which carried goods to and from a place, and upon which there was haggling over the terms of a purchase, which, as a verb, is now the meaning of the word.

BARN. Literally 'barley place' or 'building where barley is stored', from Old English 'bere' and 'aern'. The combination of these two words had produced 'bern' in Middle English.

BARON. Originally from Late Latin 'baro', meaning a 'man', it came to mean a person of distinction through the genitive form *Baronis*, a king's man or one who held by honourable service from the king. A like word meant dunce.

BASTARD. Packsaddle used as a bed by muleteers, which later imputed an irregular way of living; from Old French 'bast' and 'ard'.

BASTILLE. Late Latin meaning 'a building'. Paris prison fortress destroyed in 1789.

BATCH. Is from Middle English 'bacan', to bake, from which later developed the meaning of 'loaves produced at one baking'.

BATHOS. A Greek word meaning depth, hence a 'fall' from sublime to ridiculous.

BAY. From French 'bai', chestnut color, usually used with reference to a horse. A plural form

'baize' now used in the sense of a coarse woollen material is doubtless so named from the fact that the cloth was first made of a 'bay' color.

BAYONET. Probably so named because this form of weapon was first made or used in the City of Bayonne.

BEAD. Literally, 'prayer' from Middle English 'bede'. The old English 'ge-bed' (modern German Gebett) was supplanted by Old French 'prière' which became 'prayer' and the word 'bead' remained to represent the device which, in the Roman Catholic Church is used in counting prayers.

BEAM. An Old English word meaning 'tree'; as a ray of light, it is perhaps so called from resembling a long piece of timber cut from a tree.

BEAU. An Old French word taken from Latin 'bellus', meaning 'pretty'.

BEAVER. From Old French 'baviere', bib, and earlier 'bave', saliva, which explains its present meaning of lower faceguard of a helmet.

BEDLAM. Literally, 'Bethlehem', from hospital of St. Mary of Bethlehem in London, used as a lunatic asylum. The hospital was founded as a priory in 1247.

In the "Oxford Book of English verse" is printed a poem, written ca. 1350, in which it is said that, the Christmas star 'schon over Bedlem bright".

BEG. This is perhaps a shortened form of French 'beguiner', to be a beghard or beguin, a lay brother of a mendicant order named for Lambert Begue. The members of this order swarmed over western Europe in the 13th Century.

BEGONIA. Kind of plant named after Michel Begon.

BEHAVIOR. Originally meant 'possession' hence to 'have or bear oneself' in a certain way.

BEHEMOTH. Perhaps Egyptian 'p-che-mau' meaning river horse or hippopotamus. It is mentioned in the Book of Job as 'bemoth'.

BELDAM. Earlier meaning, grandmother; present meaning, old woman or hag. The development of this word furnishes evidence of the too frequent lack of respect for one's elders which obtains in occidental countries. 'Belsire' is an obsolete word for grandfather.

BELFRY. Literally, a tower or shed used for cover in case of siege, but later taking on the meaning of a bell tower. The word is, perhaps, from bergen, shelter, and fridu, an Old High German word meaning peace. In any event, in the formation of this word there is no connection between the first syllable of this word and the English word 'bell'.

BELLY. Over a devious path this word can be traced back to Old Teutonic 'belgan', swell; belly is a form of the word 'bellows'.

BENEDICTINE. Liquor made by monks of the order founded in 529 by St. Benedict.

BEQUEATH. Literally 'to say away', or to give away by a declaration. The second syllable is a variant of the word 'quoth'.

BERLIN. Carriage, named for the City of Berlin, Germany, where it was once popular. This type of carriage was introduced by an officer of the Elector of Brandenburg about 1670.

BERSERK. The name of Norse warriors who had the reputation of fighting with wild frenzy. The word is now synonymous with 'crazy'. The word is probably descended from Icelandic 'berserkr', bear coat. Another word having the same meaning is 'baresark', meaning 'bare shirt'.

The etymology of this word is doubtful, but it is possible that its meaning arose from the fact that the Norse warriors fought without armor.

BERTILLON SYSTEM. From the name of a French anthropologist, born 1853, who devised this system of identification.

BESSEMER. Process of steel making, named for Sir H. Bessemer, the inventor. The process dates from 1856.

BEVY. Originally a drinking company or group; cognate with the word 'beverage'. Modern French has a similar word, which means a drink for cattle made of water thickened with meal.

BIB. Perhaps from Latin, *bibere*, to drink.

BIBLE. Literally, 'the book', from Greek *biblia*, which was earlier 'biblos', meaning, papyrus bark. The word 'book' is from Old English *boc*, meaning 'beech'.

BILBO. A sword, from Bilbao, Spain.

BILLINGSGATE. From the language of fish women in Billingsgate market, London.

BISCUIT. Literally 'twice cooked' from Latin 'bis' and 'coctus'. German, *zwieback*, which is sometimes mistakenly pronounced 'zweibach', as if a translation of 'twice baked', which, in fact, it is, although the first syllable is not now the German word 'zwei', two.

BLACKGUARD. Originally employed only with reference to feudal servants whose duties kept them in the kitchen of the manor house and at tasks connected with cooking and heating the house.

BLACKMAIL. Originally a payment of rent made in copper coin. The second syllable is a word meaning 'rent' or 'tribute'. Blackstone says "When these payments were reserved in silver or white

money, they were anciently called white-rents, or blanch-farms, *reditus albi*; in contradistinction to rents reserved in work, grain or baser money, which were called *reditus nigri* or black-mail". The word was also commonly used to refer to tribute exacted by robber chiefs who roamed along the Scottish border, and who granted immunity from robbery to the farmers who paid for this protection.

BLANKET. Has its origin in Old French *blanquette*, from *blanc*, white; the name has also been attributed to Thomas Blankette, a Flemish merchant.

BLARNEY. Name of an Irish castle, the kissing of a certain stone of which is said to produce a glib and flattering tongue.

BLEMISH. Had its origin in Old French, *bleme*, pale.

BLESS. From Anglo-Saxon *blētsian*, which had its origin in *blōd*, blood. The early sense of the word was 'to consecrate by a blood sacrifice', and, as in many other cases, the word has survived the rite which gave it its first significance.

BLOOMERS. The name of this garment is that of a Mrs. Dexter C. Bloomer who, in the middle of the 19th Century, saw the women of the Oneida, New York, community wearing bulging trousers. She attached herself to the women's rights party of Susan B. Anthony and frequently appeared in pub-

lic dressed in the trousers which were later given her name. Mrs. Bloomer first wrote for the newspaper in which her Quaker husband owned an interest and later founded 'The Lily' which for a time was a highly successful publication, the main object of which was to popularize the suffrage and temperance movements.

Bobbed hair for women accompanied the bloomers of the Oneida community.

BLUCHERS. Shoes named after Prussian Field Marshall Blücher.

BODEGA. Wine shop. Spanish variant of Greek 'apotheke', apothecary. q.v.

BODY. May be connected with German 'bot-tich', cask, which in turn is related to 'bodega' and 'apothecary'.

BOGEY. This word is said to have its origin in a popular song 'The Bogey Man'. At the Great Yarmouth (England) Golf Club in the year 1890 the Secretary of the Club was playing a round of golf with a Major Wellman and the game was being played against the 'ground score', that is, each player was attempting to better a prearranged scratch value of each hole. Major Wellman's difficulty in equaling the ground score led him to remark with the currently popular song in his mind, that the invisible opponent was a 'bogey-man'. The expression 'Colonel Bogey' as an imaginary partner or oppo-

ment has led to the story that the term 'bogey' was so called from a military golfer of that name. As early as 1893 H. Hutchinson in a book on golfing said that 'bogey' was usually given the title of Colonel. Players at an early date thus personified their formidable, but nevertheless lifeless, opponent.

BOMBAST. This word has its origin in a Late Latin word *bombax*, meaning cotton; it later took the meaning of padding or stuffing for garments and the word, etymologically, is 'speech stuffed with cotton'. The root word has been preserved in *bombasine*, a twilled dress material.

BONANZA. From Spanish meaning 'fair weather'. From Latin 'bonus', good.

BONFIRE. From 'bonfire', because bones were formerly the chief material used. Such fires were frequently used for the disposal of bodies after a victory.

BONNET. From Old French *bonet*, because such head coverings were made of a material known as *bonetus*.

BOOHOO. Imitative of noisy weeping.

BOOM. Imitative of bittern's cry.

BOSS. From Dutch *baas*, meaning 'uncle'. Compare the expression 'talk to one like a Dutch uncle'.

BOTTLE. Diminutive of the Late Latin word 'butis', a butt.

BOUGAINVILIA. Tropical plant named after Bougainville, French navigator.

BOULEVARD. French word from German 'bollwerk', bulwark, which was originally a promenade constructed on the top of obsolete fortifications which often surrounded mediaeval cities. Such a promenade is still used in the City of Lübeck, Germany.

BOURGEOIS. Meaning middle class society, has its root in the same word as 'borough'. It is an entirely different word from the one spelled the same but meaning a certain kind of type used in printing. The latter word was probably taken from the name of a French printer.

BOWDLERIZE. From T. Bowdler, 1818, expurgator of Shakespeare.

BOWEL. Is from a Late Latin diminutive of 'botulus', a sausage, which was encased by animal entrails.

BOWER. This word used with reference to the 'jack' or 'knave' at euchre, is a form of the German word 'Bauer', a peasant. Cognate with this is the Dutch word 'Boer'.

BOWIE-KNIFE. Named after Col. J. Bowie.

BOYCOTT. From Captain Boycott the agent of an Irish landlord who about the year 1880 was subjected to social isolation by great numbers of tenants because the rents he demanded were considered exorbitant.

BRACKEN. A type of fern that grows on rough or 'broken' ground.

BRACKET. This word which in its plural form is used in punctuation, has come into English from Latin 'braccae', breeches, through Spanish 'braqueta', literally 'little pants'. The meaning of the word has become confused with 'brachium', Latin for arm, which can be better understood when it is remembered that what are, in America, called parentheses, are in England known as brackets, or sometimes as round brackets. It is not difficult to see a resemblance between round brackets (parentheses) and a pair of arms. In England a parenthesis is that which is set apart by the brackets.

BRAIDISM. Synonymous with hypnotism which was first scientifically explained by Dr. Braid in 1842.

BRAILLE. Named after French inventor M. Braille, 1834, who designed the system of printing for the blind.

BRANCH. From Late Latin, 'branca', a paw.

BRAND-NEW. Something freshly stamped or branded.

BRAZIL. Originally the name of an East Indies red-dye-wood called 'brasil' as early as Chaucer. The country in South America was called 'terrade brasil', land of the red dye wood, and later abbreviated to Brazil. The country was named from the tree and not the converse.

BREAD. Probably from an Old Teutonic word 'braudoz', and it perhaps first meant a 'piece' of the loaf only. In North England and in some parts of Scotland a 'piece' still carries the meaning of a morsel of bread. It has been suggested that the root word originally meant 'to break', hence to produce pieces. The importance of the word 'loaf' may be seen in the history of the words 'lord' and 'lady'.

BREWSTER SESSIONS. These meetings at which licenses to trade in alcoholic liquors were issued, took their name from the word 'brewster', a female brewer.

BRIAR. This word as used in 'briar pipe', has no connection with a prickly bush, but takes its name from the French, 'bruyere', meaning heath. The pipe is made from the roots of the heather plant.

BRIBE. Although the origin of this word is doubtful, it very likely came from a Late Latin word 'briba' and meant a crust of bread given to a beggar,

therefore, 'a gift begged' and the transition to the present meaning is easily understood, although the course of its development through 'theft' and 'robber' to the later meaning is not so clear. The close connection between 'beggar' and 'thief' furnishes a fairly accurate commentary upon the mendicants of the Middle Ages.

BRIC-A-BRAC. Perhaps comes from the French expression 'de-bric et de broc', by hook or by crook, with a reference to the diversity of origin of such curiosities.

BRIDAL. Originally bride-ale, named for the beverage consumed at wedding feasts.

BRIDEGROOM. In Old English this word was 'brydguma', or bride man. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries the word 'bride' referred to a person of either sex. The first form of the word bride probably meant 'daughter-in-law' from the root 'bru', to cook, which was a service required of a girl who had married into a mediaeval family.

BRIDEWELL. A jail, named for one in London which was so called because it was near St. Bride's well. The jail was originally a hospital established by Edward VI.

BRIGHT'S DISEASE. Named after Dr. R. Bright, the results of whose researches were published in 1827.

BROCCOLI. Literally 'cabbage top', Italian.

BROKER. In Middle English 'brocour', a broacher or one who broaches or opens a cask to draw off the liquor. The middle English sense of the word is preserved in the expression 'he broached the subject'. At first a broker was only a vendor of wine, and later the meaning extended to other middlemen or agents, such as 'pawnbroker'.

BROUGHAM. A carriage in early use by Lord Brougham.

BRUMMAGEM. A dialectic form of Birmingham and referring to the cheap and counterfeit wares made there in the 17th Century.

BRUSQUE. From the Italian word 'brusco', meaning sour.

BUCCANEER. A French word, derived from Brazilian 'boucan', and meaning a 'hunter of oxen', whose ultimate object was the roasting of the beef upon a frame called in Brazil a 'boucan'. He was known as a buccaneer before there was attached to that word the meaning which makes it synonymous with 'pirate'.

BUDGET. Originally a leather bag or wallet which later was used as a money bag or purse, and the sense later changed to refer to a parcelling out of the contents of the purse.

BUGGAR. Originally, 'bulgarus', Latin for Bulgarian, has taken the name from an eleventh century sect of Bulgarians who were supposed to be capable of any crime, and to whom the name of a particular crime was later attached. The term was formerly also used in reference to usurers.

BUGLE. Is a shortened form of 'bugle horn', or horn from a young bull, from Old French 'bugle'. The animal that supplied the instrument has been forgotten and his name has survived to mean the horn itself.

BULB. From the Greek word 'bolbos' an onion, q.v.

BULLET. From French 'boulette', which originally meant 'a little ball'. Compare ballot.

BUN. From Old French 'bugne', a swelling. From the Italian word 'bugno', a lump, has come the English word bunion.

BUNGALOW. Hindustani for Bengalese, hence a Bengalese house.

BUNKUM or BUNCOMBE. Said to refer to a Congressman from Buncombe County, North Carolina, whose speeches were sometimes made for the sole purpose of impressing his constituents. It is reported that in the Sixteenth Congress when the House of Representatives had long debated the Missouri question and was clamoring for a vote, the

member from this district continued his speech, saying that he was 'bound to make a speech for Buncombe'.

BUNSEN BURNER. Invented by Prof. Bunsen of Heidelberg, Germany.

BURDEN. In the sense 'the burden of a song', is from French 'bourdon', meaning the humming or buzzing of bees, also the droning of a musical instrument. 'Drone' in the sense of making a humming sound is doubtless from the sound made by a drone or male bee.

BURGLAR. Was perhaps built upon the Anglo-Saxon words 'burgh' and 'breche', breaking into a city.

BUSHEL. From Late Latin, 'buscellus', a box; this meaning makes clearer the expression 'to hide one's light under a bushel'.

BUTCHER. Originally a slaughterer of buck goats, from 'bocier', an Old French word derived from boc, a buck goat, a cognate form of which has survived in buck, the male of several species.

BUXOM. Was first used in the sense of pliable, yielding or obedient, and later 'plump', perhaps because of the traditional good nature of fat people.

BY-LAW. Literally, town law, from Old English 'by', a town. An obsolete word 'byrlaw' was used to mean 'local custom'.

CAB. A shortened form of cabriolet which is the diminutive of cabriole, 'a goat's leap', doubtless applied to the light type of carriage known as a cabriolet because it travelled over the rough roads of France by leaps like those of a goat. The word has its origin in the Latin word 'caper', a he-goat. Cabriolet, also describes the leg of a chair which ends in a goat's foot.

CABBAGE. From French 'caboche', which in turn is from Latin 'caput', head, with reference to the solid form of its unexpanded leaves.

CADDIE. A Scottish word from French 'cadet', from which also comes the word 'cad'. Considerably more than a hundred years before a caddie was known as the now familiar attendant of a golf player, a Scottish author described caddies as very useful blackguards, "who attend publick places to go of errands; and though they are wretches, that in rags lye upon the stairs, and in the streets at night, yet they are often considerably trusted.—This corps has a kind of captain—presiding over them, whom they call the constable of the cawdys."

The word 'cad' became well known in the early 19th Century in the then frequent 'town and gown' quarrels and riots at the University of Oxford.

CALCULATE. A development from the Latin word calx, through its diminutive 'calculus', a little stone or a small piece of lime stone. The stones

were used as 'counters' by Roman merchants, who by their use calculated their accounts. From calx also comes the word calcium.

CALENDULA. A flower by this name was said by Pliny to take its name from Latin 'calendae', the first day of the Roman month, because the plant flowered in every month of the year. Pliny's explanation was inaccurate or he was referring to a different bloom than the English marigold, which does not flower in every month.

CALF. In the sense of the heavier and hinder part of the lower leg has probably no connection with the same word meaning a cow's young, yet it has been popularly supposed to be related to the condition of a cow before the calf is born and the word has, without foundation, been said to derive from the big-bellied Emperor Galba.

CALICO. A cloth from Calicut on the Malabar Coast; the word was once used to refer to all cotton cloth imported into England from India.

CALLISTHENIC. From the Greek words 'kallos' and 'sthenos', meaning 'beauty' and 'strength'.

CALM. An interesting growth from the word for heat (greek—kauma) which does not at first seem closely related to the modern meaning, but which, it has been explained came about in this way: burning heat—heat of the day—rest during the heat

of the day—quiet—stillness. Modern Provençal has a kindred word 'chaume', meaning 'resting time of the cattle', obviously during the hottest part of the day.

CALOMEL. Explained anecdotically from the fact that the chemist who discovered it, saw a 'beautiful black powder change into a white powder in the preparation'. The word is a combination of the Greek 'kalos' and 'meli', meaning beautiful and sweet. Actually the word was used much earlier than the anecdote would indicate, but its derivation from the Greek is unquestionably correct.

CAMBRIC. A fine white linen first made in Cambray, Flanders.

CAMEMBERT. A cheese made in the village of the same name.

CAN. Originally meant 'know' from the Old English word 'cunnan', a form of which is preserved in 'cunning' and in the Scottish word 'canny'.

CANARD. The French word for duck, has probably taken on the meaning of an absurd or extravagant story from the old expression 'vendre un canard à moitié', to half-sell a duck, or in other words not to sell it at all, even though pretending to do so. At one time the present meaning of the word was supposed to have arisen from a story circulated by Cornelissen to test the gullibility of the

French Public. He reported that he had owned twenty ducks and killed them one by one, feeding their bodies to the survivors until the twentieth one had actually devoured his nineteen comrades.

CANARY. The bird is so called from the fact that it was found in large numbers on the Canary Islands, off the west coast of Africa, but the Islands take their name from the large dogs (Latin, *canis*) discovered on one of them by the Romans.

CANCEL. Comes from the Latin word 'cancelli', the diminutive plural of 'cancer' a lattice. From this arises the verb *cancellare* 'to make a lattice' of cross lines to obliterate a writing; hence to abolish or make void.

CANCER. From the Latin word for crab; so named because of the resemblance between the swollen veins accompanying the disease, and the legs of a crab.

CANDIDATE. From the Latin *candidatus* 'clothed in white'. Romans campaigning for office 'moved about' (Latin, *ambitio*) the city wearing white robes. The white toga has been forgotten but 'candidate' remains as one seeking office. The toga was worn without a hood as a mark of the humility of the candidate and perhaps more important, to display more easily any wounds received in battle. The adjective 'candid' is from the same root.

CANDYTUFT. A combination of an earlier name of Crete, 'Candy', and 'tuft'.

CANNIBAL. A variation of the name of the Caribs, a West Indian nation.

CANOPY. Originally a mosquito net, a protection against gnats, from the Greek word 'konops', gnat.

CANTALOUPE. A melon named for Cantalupo in Italy, near which town there was formerly a country home of the Pope. It is said that after its introduction from Armenia the melon was first cultivated there.

CANTER. Literally 'Canterbury trot', the pace taken by the horses of pilgrims on their way to the grave of St. Thomas à Becket at Canterbury.

CANTERBURY BELL. A flower named after the bells of Canterbury Pilgrims' horses.

CANVAS. Literally, to examine by a process of sifting through a piece of canvas.

CAPER. A shortened form of the word capriole, from the Italian, capriola, which in turn is from the Latin, capra, a she-goat. The connection of this word with the present meaning is doubtless the goat's playfulness. 'Caprice' is another form of the same root, but comes from the masculine word 'capro', a he-goat.

CARBONARI. These Neapolitan revolutionists were so called because they disguised themselves as charcoal burners.

CARDIGAN. Named for the Earl of Cardigan, about 1856.

CARDINAL. From Latin *cardinalis*, 'of a hinge'; hence the meaning 'on which something hinges, fundamental or important'. The dignitaries of the Catholic Church are so named because of the importance of their position. Upon them hinges much in the conduct of the Roman Catholic Church, including the election of the Popes. The color is so named because it is the color of a Cardinal's cassock.

CAREEN. This word arises from the practice of turning a ship on its side for cleaning, from Latin, '*carina*' meaning a keel.

CAREER. Is from '*carriere*' a French word for 'racecourse', hence course or path one takes in seeking advancement.

CARMEN. As well as crimson, is from '*kermes*', an Arabian name for the cochineal insect, from whose dried bodies a scarlet dye is made.

CARNIVAL. Originally a name for one day only—Shrove Tuesday, the day before the commencement of Lent, upon which was celebrated with some gaiety the approach of the forty-day

period of denial. The word originally meant 'to put away meat' from the Latin words 'carnem levare'. See Mardi Gras.

CAROL. This word and choir and chorus, are all from the Greek word 'choros', a dance, a fact which may indicate that dancing antedated choral singing.

CAROUSE. This word was originally connected with a drinking bout, and with no other form of boisterous conduct. The word is from a part of a German expression, 'gar aus trinken' meaning 'to drink right out', or empty the glass.

CARPENTER. Was originally a wagon builder; from the Latin word 'carpentum', wagon.

CARPET. Goes back to the Latin *carpere*, 'to pluck' and probably took its present meaning from the fact that the first carpets were of patchwork. For the expression 'to be put upon the carpet', see 'tapis'. In the Journal of the Virginia House of Burgesses (1703) there is this entry: "Sufficient quantity of green cloth be provided to make carpets for all the tables."

CARYATID. Named for the priestesses at Caryae.

CASCADE. This word and *cascara*, have their roots in the same Latin word 'cascare', to fall.

CASH. So-called from the box, French 'caisse', in which money was formerly kept. 'Cashier' is, of course, a keeper of the cash. There is, however, a verb 'to cashier', of Dutch origin, meaning 'to break'.

CATERER. Literally, a 'purchaser', from French 'achat', a purchase.

CATERPILLAR. Literally a hairy cat, from Old French 'chate pelose'.

CATTLE. This word goes back to the time when the wealth of a man was measured by the size of his herd, and there was little other property. It came from the Latin 'capitale', meaning capital or chief, and another form of the word now appears as 'chattel', meaning any type of tangible personal property. While in South Europe the sense of 'chief property' was being conveyed by the word cattle, in North Europe the same idea developed into the word 'ox'. The Latin 'capitale' is preserved in the English word capital—meaning money or property and also in the 'capital shares' of a corporation.

CAYENNE. Ultimately from Cayenne, the Capital of French Guiana.

CEDILLA. Diminutive of zeta, Greek name of the letter Z.

CELERY. Originally from the Greek, *selimone*, parsley, doubtless because of the resemblance between their leaves.

CEMETERY. A dormitory, from Greek, 'koimio', put to sleep.

CEREAL. Named from Ceres, goddess of grain.

CHAGRIN. This word has gone a long way to come to its present meaning. Originally it is Turkish, *saghri*, meaning the rump of a horse and is the same word as 'shagreen' a prepared hide used for friction. The present sense of chagrin has been arrived at by a metaphor,—to produce an effect as by the use of shagreen, through friction.

CHAMELEON. Literally 'lion on the ground', from Greek 'khamai', on the ground and 'leon', lion.

CHAMPAGNE. The name of the French province where this wine is made.

CHAP. Is a shortened form of 'chapman', merchant. It is cognate with the modern German, 'Kaufmann', having the same meaning. The word at one time meant a 'customer', or a person one had to deal with, from which it probably took on a somewhat contemptuous meaning.

CHAPEL. From the Latin *capella*, a little cloak. The present meaning of the word is derived from

the place where the cloak of St. Martin of Tours was kept; first referring to the shrine where this particular object was kept, it later came to mean a place where any sacred thing was deposited. The guardians of the cloak were 'capellarii', or chaplains.

CHAPERON. From French 'chape', cape or hood, and later in the sense 'to cover over with one's cape',—as easily watched as if under the same hood.

CHARADE. Provençal for chatter.

CHARTREUSE. A liqueur made by Carthusian monks.

CHAUFFEUR. A French word meaning a stoker and probably used derisively of the drivers of the first crude automobiles.

CHAUVINISM. From Nicholas Chauvin of Rochefort, one of Napoleon's veterans whose patriotism was first praised and then ridiculed by his comrades.

CHEAP. In this word the result sought to be achieved is confused with the process of bringing it to a conclusion. The Old English word 'ceap' meant merely to barter. See 'chap'.

CHEAT. From 'escheator', the public official whose whole duty it was to look after property that because of lapse of inheritance was forfeited to the King.

CHECK. At first referred to the counterfoil of a bill of exchange, the purpose of which was to 'check' forgery.

CHECKMATE. From the Arabian 'shah mata', 'the king is dead'.

CHEER. From Middle English 'chere', meaning 'face'. The expression 'to be of good cheer', is etymologically the same as 'to put on a good face', namely to indicate happiness or fortitude by the expression on one's face.

CHENILLE. A French word meaning caterpillar; from the Latin 'canicula', a small dog.

CHERRY. This word takes its name from Kerasos, a City in Pontus, whence the fruit was brought to Rome by Lucullus, whose banquets were widely known for their splendor. In Rome the fruit was 'cerasus', and in France became 'cerise'.

CHESTERFIELD. A kind of overcoat, and also a kind of couch named for the Earl of Chesterfield.

CHESTNUT. From Castana, a City in Greece. The Spanish form 'castanet', is the diminutive of this word.

CHEVIOT. Wool from the sheep of the Cheviot hills.

CHIMERA. An unfounded conception, from the Greek name of a mythical animal formed of the parts of various animals.

CHINCHILLA. The animal is so called because its smell is said to be like that of a bug; from chinche, Spanish for 'bug'.

CHIROPODIST. This word is usually thought to be a combination of the Greek word 'kheir', hand, and 'pous', foot, but there is also the word 'kheirropodes', which means 'with chapped feet'. There seems to be as much reason for the latter explanation as for the generally accepted one.

CHOPSTICK. From the Chinese word for 'quick-stick'.

CHRONIC. From Greek 'khronos' meaning time.

CIGAR. From 'cigarro', which in turn is probably from 'cigarra', the Spanish word for cicada because of a similarity in shape. Cheroot is from the Tamil word 'shurutta', roll.

CITRUS. Named from Citron, a town in Palestine.

CLARENCE. Carriage named for the Duke of Clarence who became William IV of England.

CLEVER. The etymology of this word is doubtful, but there is reason to believe that it is related to a Middle English word meaning 'quick at seizing', which may be connected with Middle English 'clivers', claws. The meaning is apparent even though the history is doubtful.

CLEW. A variant spelling of 'clue', is a ball of thread by which, in tales of mythology, one could be guided through a labyrinth or maze.

CLIENT. From the Latin word 'cluere', to hear or obey; patient is from 'pati', suffer. In Roman antiquity the 'cliens' was a plebeian who was under the protection of a patrician.

CLIMATE. This word arose out of the idea of the Greeks that the earth sloped from the equator to the north pole, and that the temperature and 'climate' of a place depended upon its position on this inclined surface. The root word was 'klinein', to slope, which is also the basis of clinic, perhaps from an earlier meaning of 'a sloping bed'.

CLOAK. Named for a mediaeval cape, fashioned in the general shape of a bell. The root word 'cloca', meaning a bell, is also the word from which 'clock' is derived, in imitation of its shape.

CLOVE. Because of its shape is from Latin 'clavus', a nail.

CLUB. From an old Norse word, clubba, meaning a clump or knot; an organization for joint action is, therefore, a 'knot of persons'.

COACH. From Kocs, a Magyar place-name.

COAST. So-called from the analogy of ribs enclosing the upper part of the body; from Latin, costa, rib or side. v. accost.

COBALT. A name, 'Kobald', meaning goblin or demon given to the metal by German miners who considered the ore useless and because too, of the bad effect mining the metal had upon the health. In the Hartz Mountains, where the name probably arose, cobalt was found in combination with arsenic.

COCOA. There is no connection between this word meaning the powder from which the drink is made and as it appears in 'cocoa nut'. 'Coco' is a Spanish word meaning 'grimace', or bogie-man. The three black marks on the end of the cocoanut probably gave rise to this association of ideas. 'Cocoa' from which chocolate is made is a corruption of the word 'cacao'.

COFFEE. From an Arabian word, qahweh, meaning merely 'the drink'. It was perhaps originally a wine.

COGNAC. From the town Cognac, in the Department of Charente, France.

COHORT. This word had an original meaning of 'being enclosed with another'. The second syllable 'hort' is from the Latin 'hortus' garden, which is an enclosed space for plants. From the same root are the words 'yard' and 'garden'.

COIN. This word takes its name from cuneus, a Latin word meaning 'stamping die', the product

here taking its name from the machine that produced it.

COLONEL. The Latin word 'columna', a column, became 'colonel' in English and 'coronel' in Spanish, which form appeared frequently in Elizabethan English, and explains the present pronunciation.

COMB. Furnishes an instance of an object, the meaning of which has been taken from one of its parts. Its root is the Sanskrit word, gambhas, a tooth.

COMET. Literally, a star that wears its hair long, from the Greek 'kamao'.

COMPANIONS. Literally those who share bread with one another, from Latin 'cum', with, and 'panis', bread. Comrades were originally those who shared a room, from Latin camera, a chamber. A congress was a group 'walking together'.

COMPILE. This word has a peaceful enough modern meaning, but at one time implied the use of force; its original sense was that of collecting by plunder.

COMPLEXION. In its original sense meant those qualities which determined the nature of a thing, and not its appearance. The root is Latin, plectere, to braid, and thus make a part of the structure of an object.

COMPUNCTION. This word has the same root as the word puncture, and its meaning is 'a pricking of the conscience'.

CONCEIT. From the verb 'conceive' probably upon the analogy of 'deceit' from 'deceive'. The present meaning implies opinions too favorable of oneself.

CONFETTI. An Italian word meaning originally, small pieces of candy.

CONGREGATION. A gathering, as in a herd from Latin grex. Pastor is Latin for shepherd.

CONSTABLE. From Late Latin 'comes stabuli', count or officer of the stable. The constable had become the principal officer of the household of the Frankish kings before the word was introduced into England. v. marshall.

COOPER. A mixture of stout and ale that was particularly relished by the coopers of the brewery. Porter, was so called because it was the favourite drink of porters. Stout, obviously enough, was merely a 'strong beer'.

COPPER. Literally, 'Cyprian metal', from its early and well known source—Cyprus.

COPY. This word and copious, have the same root, viz., the Latin word 'copia', abundance.

CORDOVA. Refers usually to the leather of Cordova in Spain.

CORDUROY. Probably from the French, *corde du roi*, cord of the king.

COREOPSIS. Literally, having the 'appearance of a bug', referring to the seeds; from Greek 'koris' and 'opsis'.

CORONER. Literally, officer of the crown.

CORROBORATE. Originally meant 'to be made like hard wood'; to be made strong, from the Latin word 'robur', hard wood. Robust has its root in the same word.

COUNSEL. This word had an early sense of 'jumping together'; from that arose the meaning of doing the same thing as another, and later the sense of doing the thing some one advises; from Latin, 'sal', a jump.

COUNTERPANE. From Old French 'contre-pointe', in turn from 'culcita puncta'—literally a punctured or stitched quilt.

COUNTRY. A word closely akin to 'contra', opposite. Its original meaning was, 'the land lying opposite the town', from Late Latin 'contrata'.

COUSIN. The root of this word is Latin 'soror', sister, and had an early sense of being relatives on the mother's side only.

COWARD. From Latin 'acuda', tail, hence, perhaps some such meaning as one with his tail between his legs, as is seen in a cowardly dog.

COWSLIP. In Old English this word had the inelegant meaning of cowdung. There was also an early form, cow-slop.

CRATER. From the Greek 'krater', a mixing bowl for wine.

CRAVAT. From the German word *Krabate*, meaning a Croation, from which people a particular type of neckware probably arose. The word dates from the Thirty Years' War.

CREMONA. A violin made at Cremona, Italy.

CRISS-CROSS. From 'Christ's cross' a form of cross placed before a row of letters in mediaeval primers.

CROESUS. A wealthy king of Lydia.

CROWBAR. Probably so named because of some resemblance to the beak of a crow.

CRUCIBLE. From Latin 'crucibulum', a lamp with four arms pointing in four directions from a common center, like the arms of a cross. The ultimate root is Latin 'crux', a cross.

CRUNCH. An imitative word.

CURFEW. Originally the time set for covering the fire at night, as a safety measure, and later took

on the sense of a time fixed for terminating public functions or for retiring, from Old French 'couvrir'. cover and 'feu', fire.

CURMUDGEON. This word, the origin of which is unknown, furnishes an instance of the ease with which a false explanation can gain wide acceptance. In Holland's *Livy* in 1600 appeared the word 'cornmudgin', which is supposed to have been made up of 'corn' and a derivative of 'muchén', a Middle English word meaning 'to steal or hide away'. Holland's word has been taken to refer to an engrosser or hoarder of grain, who was the object of many criminal statutes in Mediaeval England, at times when high prices and the scarcity of food stuffs were laid at the door of unscrupulous middlemen. Holland's expression was unquestionably merely a play upon words, fashioning 'cornmudgin' in much the same way as 'gerry-mander' was built up many years later. 'Curmudgeon' was in good use twenty-five years before the publication of *Livy* in 1600. Dr. Johnson, in the eighteenth century, rather naïvely, traced the word to 'coeur mechant', French for 'of evil heart'.

CURRENT. A raisin of Corauntz, an earlier name of Corinth.

CUSHION. From Old French coissin, from Latin coximum, which itself is from the word coxa, hip. Hence, a 'place for the hips'.

CUSTARD. Originally a kind of pie in which the pastry was predominant, from French 'croustade', literally 'made of crust'.

CUTE. A shortened form of 'acute'.

CYNIC. From the Greek word Kunikos, which was the nickname for the school of philosophers now known as Cynics. Kunikos has its root in Greek 'kuon' a dog. The Cynics were principally known for their contempt for pleasure.

DAD, DADDY. An infantile sound.

DAFT. From an Old English word, gedæfte, meaning mild or meek, and from which root also comes the word 'deft'.

DAGO. Originally a Spaniard, from the Spanish name Diego.

DAGUERROTYPE. This photographic process takes its name from the Frenchman Louis Jacques Daguerre who died in 1851.

DAHLIA. Takes its name from the Swedish botanist Dahl. The name dates from the year 1791.

DAIRY. From Old English 'daege', a maid servant, probably so called because of the fact that the milking was attended to by women.

DAISY. Literally, 'day's eye' from Old English 'daeges eage'.

DALTONISM. Named for the English chemist John Dalton, who was afflicted with colour-blindness.

DAMASK. A figured woven material perhaps first imported from Damascus.

DAMSON. A plum of the type raised near Damascus.

DANDELION. Literally 'lion's tooth', from the French 'dent de lion'.

DARN. This word may originally have been used in the sense of hide, for to darn a hole was to hide it. Old High German had the verb 'tarnan', to hide, but a connection between the two has never been established.

DATE. The name of this fruit, is traced, because of its shape, through Old French and Latin to the Greek word 'daktulas', meaning finger.

DAUB. Originally meant to cover over with white, or whitewash. Its root is in the Latin expression 'de albare' from 'albus' meaning white.

DAVENPORT. In England this word is used to mean a chest of drawers used as a writing desk, and is probably named for the first designer of such a piece of furniture.

DAVY LAMP. A miner's lamp invented by Sir Humphrey Davy.

DAY. The names of the days of the weeks arise as follows: Sunday, day of the Sun, Monday, of the moon; Tuesday of Tiw, a god of war; Wednesday, day of Odin or Wodin; Thursday, Thor's day; Friday, the day of Frig, wife of Odin and Saturday, the day of Saturn.

DEBATE. This word had an original meaning of 'to fight it out', from the Roman 'battere', to fight. In some modern assemblies the older meaning remains.

DEBENTURE. In the early days of trading by credit, the first world of a voucher or note was the Latin word 'debentur', meaning 'there are due'.

DEBONAIR. This is really a combination of three French words, 'de bonne aire', of good disposition, or air.

DECALOGUE. Literally, 'the ten words', from the Greek, 'hoi deka logoi'.

DECANT. This word received its meaning from the Greek word 'kanthos', referring to the lip of a mug or beaker.

DECEMBER. This word is from the Latin word 'decem', meaning ten; December was the tenth month of the Roman calendar; November, from the word 'novem', was the ninth and October

from the word 'octo', the eighth month. September is from the Latin word *Septem*, seven. The other months of the year have their origin as follows: January, from *Janus*, the ancient Italian god, guardian of gates and doors, having faces on front and back of head; February, from the Latin, 'februa', purification, with reference to the Roman festival of the purification of women held during this month. Evidence of the mild winters in England is the fact that in Anglo-Saxon this month was called *Sprout-Kale*, the month in which cabbage sprouted. March, named for the Roman god, *Mars*. April, from the Latin word 'aprilis'. (v. *apricot*). Its root has a meaning of 'early', and April was so named because it was the first month of spring. Since the seasons are early in Italy, it must be remembered that from about 650 B.C. until 452 B.C. February was the last month of the year, and in the earlier calendar April was the second of 10 months. May, originally the third month in the Roman calendar was perhaps named from the goddess, *Maia*; June is named for the Roman name *Junius*, July, for *Julius Caesar* and August for *Augustus Caesar*.

DECIDE. Originally 'to cut through', and hence the meaning of settling with as much finality as is indicated by an amputation.

DECREPIT. One who was decrepit in the original sense of the word, was one who creaked, from Latin 'de' and 'crepitus'.

DEFALCATE. This word originally implied a perfectly lawful pursuit, namely, that of cutting off with a scythe. It is not so long a step from the Roman harvester to the modern felon when it is considered that the word was probably first used in connection with stolen grain. 'Falx' is a Latin word meaning scythe.

DELIBERATE. Its first meaning was, to weigh in a balance, and from this sense the transition to a 'weighing' in the mind is an easy one. The Latin word 'libra', is balance.

DELIRIUM. From the Latin word lira, a furrow, had an original meaning of 'out of the furrow', or 'off the track'.

DELTA. The alluvial tract at the mouth of a river is so named because of its resemblance in shape to the capitalized fourth letter of the Greek alphabet, called delta.

DEMIJOHN. A corruption of the French 'dame-jeanne', Dame Jane, although some have thought, without proof, that the word was connected with the Persian town of Damaghan. Other examples of this type of personification are: 'sparrow-grass' for asparagus, and 'greybeard' for a liquor jug made of stoneware.

DEUTZIA. Named after J. Deutz of Amsterdam in the year 1791.

DEVIL. From the Greek *diabolos*, a slanderer, which in turn is a combination of 'dia' and 'ballo', literally 'to throw through' a common enough effect of slander. An interesting query is whether the Greek word 'ballo', to throw, has any connection with 'balli', a sphere which is thrown?

DIAPER. Ultimately from 'dia' and 'aspros', the latter of which is Byzantine Greek for 'white', and 'dia' meaning 'across'. The diaper was originally a white fabric with a diamond shaped pattern.

DIATRIBE. Literally criticism which 'rubs through', from the Greek 'tribo', to rub; like *diabolos*, it describes an effect.

DIGITALIS. A Latin translation of the German 'fingerhut', thimble, the name of the fox-glove from which the medicine is prepared. 'Digit' is Latin for finger. 'Thimble' is literally, 'little thumb'.

DILAPIDATE. From the Latin, *lapis*, stone. In English it originally had the sense of a destruction resulting from taking 'stone from stone'. In Latin the sense was probably 'thrown away like stones'.

DIMITY. A cotton fabric, woven with raised stripes, has its meaning from Latin *dimitum*, meaning 'double thread'. Twill has the same meaning, but is from Old English 'twi', two, and 'lic', thread. See 'drill'.

DING-DONG. Imitative of the sound of a bell.

DINOSAUR. Literally, terrible lizard, from the Greek.

DIPHTHERIA. From the Greek word diphthera, hide, with reference to the formation of a false membrane by the disease.

DIPLOMA. Originally, a folded paper, from the Greek, diploo, double. From the same root is also diplomat, who was usually the bearer of important folded papers or documents.

DIRGE. Shortened form of 'dirige', Latin meaning 'direct', the first word of a part of the Latin Service for the Dead, now, of course, used generically.

DISASTER. Literally 'away from a star', with a sense of the depth or distance a misfortune has carried one.

DISEASE. Literally 'deprived of ease'; e.g., Congreve in 1697 has 'what racking cares dis-ease a monarch's bed'.

DENIZEN. Originally meant to live 'in the city', from Old French 'deinz (dans) la cite'.

DERIVE. Literally, 'from the stream'. See arrive and rival.

DERM. The Greek word, *derma*, had its origin in an earlier root, *dero*, to flay or strike, the *derma* being that part of the body subjected to beating.

DERRICK. The name is derived from that of a famous Tyburn hangman who lived in the late 16th and early 17th Century. The word originally was used to designate any hangman and later the gallows at which he performed his work.

DERVISH. This word has its origin in a Persian word, 'dervish', poor, and has taken its meaning from an order of friars vowed to poverty. A part of the ritual of the order was the whirling, dancing and howling which is now associated with the word dervish.

DESK. This word, together with 'disc' and 'dish' all have their roots in the Latin word 'discus'.

DESSERT. From the French word *desservir*, which means merely, 'to clear the table'.

DESULTORY. From the Latin word 'desultor', a circus rider, which in turn is derived from 'salire', to leap.

DETACH. This word had an original sense of 'unfastened through the pulling of a tack or nail', from the Roman, *tacca*, a tack.

DETAIL. Literally 'cut from', from the same French root (*tailler*) as the word 'tailor'.

DETEST. From the Latin 'detestari', to call God to witness against.

DEUCE. In the expression 'the deuce!' it probably originated in the exclamation of a gambler who made the lowest throw possible, namely, the two, French 'deux'. v. Ace.

DEUS EX MACHINA. Literally 'god from the machinery'—a power which arrives just in time to solve a difficulty, from the fact that in the ancient theatre, gods were suspended in the air by machinery.

DISMAL. From the Latin, 'dies mali', evil days. In mediaeval calendars there were two special days so called, set aside in each month, probably originally, by the superstitious who looked upon them as unpropitious, although these days were also called Egyptian days, either because they were originally computed by Egyptian astrologers, or were considered to be connected with the plagues of Egypt.

DIVAN. Originally the Persian word 'devan', later adapted by the Turks to mean a bench along a room wall and also a custom-house. In French this same word is preserved as 'douane', a custom-house, and by this name the custom-houses of many European countries are designated. 'Ottoman'—a cushioned sofa takes its name from Othman I of Turkey.

DIVE. A fairly understandable mixture of two Old English words meaning 'sink' and 'immerse'.

DODO. From the Portuguese 'doudo', a simpleton.

DOFF. Literally, do off; 'don', do on.

DOILEY. From the name of a linen dealer, Doyley, who kept a shop in the Strand in London in the early 18th Century.

DOLOMITE. Named for the French geologist, Dolomieu.

DOME. Ultimately from the Latin word domus, a house.

DONKEY. Takes its name from the 'dun' colour of the animal which bears the name.

DORMOUSE. A dormant or hibernating mouse.

DOT. From Old English 'dott', the head of a boil.

DOVE. This word may be cognate with Old English 'dufan', to dive,—perhaps with reference to some characteristics of their flying.

DOWDY. From an obsolete word 'dowd' meaning slut.

DOWLAS. A kind of calico made in Doulas, Brittany.

DRAB. From the French word 'drap', cloth, probably because of the usual colour of many of the early cloths produced. From the same word comes 'drapery'.

DRAWING-ROOM. Originally 'withdrawing-room', the room to which women withdrew after dinner.

DREADNOUGHT. So called from the name of the first of the great battleships.

DRILL. A coarse material, literally 'of three threads', from Latin 'tri' and 'licium'. See 'dimity'.

DROPSY. Ultimately from the Greek word 'hudor', water. In French the word appeared as 'hydropsie'. The disease is so named because of the watery fluid which collects in the tissues of the body.

DROWN. Perhaps from 'drunken' the past participle of 'drink'.

DUCAT. Probably named for the Duke of Apulia, who minted coins in Venice in the 12th Century.

DUEL. From the Latin words 'duo' and 'belli' and meaning literally 'two wars'.

DUFFEL. Coarse woollen cloth first made in Duffel in Brabant.

DUMDUM. A form of bullet named for the arsenal and cantonment at Dumdum in India.

DUNCE. This word, meaning a stupid person, has been taken from the name of a celebrated 13th Century theologian who was a lecturer at Oxford, Paris and Cologne. He was born John Scotus, in the Village of Duns, southeast of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was known as John Duns Scotus and those who followed his school of philosophy were known as Dunsmen. Subtle reasoning was one of their characteristics. In 1527 Tindale said "A Duns man would make xx distinctions". Duns Scotus having written textbooks for use at the University of Oxford, several centuries later 'dunce' or 'duns' became the name of any textbook of logic, and the subject itself being, unfortunately then as now, looked upon as an impractical one, its study produced the dunce, who in 1642 was spoken of as one 'void of learning, but full of books'. The presently accepted meaning of the word developed as early as the 16th Century, for Holinshed, in that part of his chronicles which is devoted to Scotland, said "—in our age it is groune to be a common proverbe in derision, to call such a person as is senselesse or without learning a Duns, which is as much as a foole."

DUNGEON. Without flattery of the feudal system, this word has its root, although distant, in the Latin word 'dominus', a lord.

DUNKARD. A member of a religious sect, which practises baptism by triple immersion. The name is taken from the German word 'dunken', meaning 'to dip', and is related to the Americanism 'to dunk',—as to dip pastry in coffee or milk.

DUODENUM. From the Late Latin 'duodeni', because of its usual length of 12 inches.

DWELL. In Old English 'dwellan' had the meaning of 'to be delayed' or 'to be led astray'.

EARNEST. In the sense of money used to confirm a contract, this word is from the verb 'to earl', which is still used in some parts of England as meaning the payment of a shilling made upon hiring a servant at the open market or fair where those who offer themselves for service present themselves for inspection. Those who wish to be considered for employment usually wear a bright ribbon to indicate their availability.

EARN. From the root 'azna', meaning 'field labor', which was the only way an Old Teutonic laborer knew of receiving reward for any kind of work. The German word for harvest is 'Ernte'.

EASEL. Literally 'ass', from Latin, *asinus*. In Dutch the word is 'ezel', in German, 'Esel'. This is not the only name of an animal that has been used to designate a machine or inanimate object. There is the firedog in England, fire buck in Ger-

many; the long-necked machine known as a crane; the supporting device known as a horse and the engine known as a donkey, as well as monkey-wrench and pig-iron.

EASTER. Perhaps from Old English Eostre, the dawn goddess. The word 'east' is from the Latin *aurora*, dawn.

ECONOMY. From the Greek, and meaning originally 'house management', where, of course, these problems were first presented. Carlyle in his 'Schiller' speaks of trying to find someone who would undertake 'my small economy'.

ECSTASY. Literally 'to put one out of his senses', from Greek, 'ekstasis'. In Othello 'ecstasy' is used to refer to the state of one who had fallen in a trance.

ECZEMA. From the Greek meaning 'boil out'.

EDEN. A Hebrew word, meaning 'delight'.

EFFENDI. A Turkish title of respect which is a corruption of the Greek 'authentēs'—one who does a thing himself. *v.* authentic.

EFFETE. A Latin word 'effetus' meaning literally, 'worn out by breeding'.

EIGHTY. Literally, eight decades, from Old English 'tig', meaning decade.

ELECTRICITY. From the Greek word 'elektron', amber, from which electricity was first produced by means of friction.

ELIMINATE. From the Latin 'ex' and 'limen', meaning, in effect 'to put out of the house', or beyond the threshold; 'preliminary', means literally 'before the threshold.'

EMBEZZLE. In Old French 'to ravage or maltreat' a person, the connection with money or property being a later meaning.

EMPLOY. This word and 'imply' and 'implicate' have their roots in the Latin words 'im' and 'plicare', literally, to fold in.

ENCHANT. Originally, the effect produced by the incantations or songs of a witch, and in sense at least, connected with 'bewitch'.

ENCROACH. Ultimately from Old French, *croc*, a crook, by which an article could be stealthily removed, or, by reference to its shape the word perhaps took on the meaning of a stealthy intrusion on another's land.

ENCYCLOPEDIA. Literally, all-encircling or all-round education. The Greek word 'paideuō' to educate, has its root in 'pais', boy, probably because the only pupils were boys. v. pedagogue.

ENNUI. French word from the Latin expression 'in odio', in hatred. From the same expression has come also the word 'annoy'.

ENTHRALL. From the Anglo-Saxon word 'thrall', a slave, now used figuratively.

ENTHUSIASM. Literally 'possessed by a god'. 'Theology' has the same Greek root, 'theos', god.

ENTICE. From the Latin 'titio', a firebrand, literally, therefore, 'to set on fire', and, in this way, to attract.

EPICURE. So named after the Greek philosopher, Epicurus, founder of the 'eat, drink and be merry' school.

EQUERRY. This word is derived from the mediaeval Latin 'scuria', stable, rather than from the earlier Latin equus, horse.

ERADICATE. Literally, to pull up by the roots, from the Latin 'radix', root. Of like ancestry is the word 'radish'.

ERMINE. From the Latin 'mus Armenius', Armenian mouse.

ERRONEOUS. This word has its root in the Latin 'erronis', of 'a vagabond'. From the same root is the word 'errant'.

ERUDITE. Literally 'not coarse or rude', by way of implying one of the most desired aims of

education. In a measure the same general reflection is cast by the word 'education', which is doubtless, 'a leading *from* hoi polloi', rather than 'a leading into learning'.

ESCAPE. From the Late Latin 'excappa', 'out of one's cape', probably in the sense of releasing oneself, after being seized, by leaving the cloak behind, or of a culprit fleeing after his would-be captor's cape had been thrown over him. cf. chaperon.

ESKIMO. Literally raw-flesh-eater, from an American Indian word 'Eskimantsic'.

ESQUIRE. Literally, a shield bearer, from Latin 'scutarius'. The present meaning is reminiscent of the wars in which lords and their 'gentlemen', did more than direct a battle.

ESTABLISH. Literally, to set up a stable, from Latin 'stabilire'.

ESTOP. Originally to prevent the towing of a boat, from the Latin word, 'stuppa', tow.

ETCH. From the Dutch etsen, to make eat, with reference to the biting of the acid in the metal from which the engraving is made.

ETIQUETTE. From the French word meaning 'ticket,' 'because of the fact that rules governing conduct were sometimes written or printed on a card.

EUNUCH. From the Greek 'eunoukhos', meaning 'bed-chamber attendant', originally without reference to sex.

EVANGEL. Greek, meaning 'fee for good news'.

EVE. From the Hebrew word Havvah, meaning 'life'.

EXAGGERATE. Literally 'to heap up' or, in American slang, 'to lay it on'. From Latin 'ag-gerare'.

EXAMINE. From the Latin word 'exagmen', the tongue of a balance, which indicates the exact weight.

EXCHEQUER. From the mediaeval Latin 'scaccarium', a chess board. The word took on its present meaning from the fact that the court handling financial matters used a table covered with checkered cloth.

EXCRUCIATE. From the Latin word 'crux', cross, the meaning having reference to the torture of death upon the cross.

EXILE. From 'ex' and 'salire', meaning literally, to leap from.

EXORBITANT. A word of rural origin—meaning, 'out of the wheel-track' from Latin 'ex' and 'orbitare'. cf. delirium.

EXPECTORATE. Literally 'to relieve the mind'—but more accurately to relieve, or 'get something off' the chest, from Latin 'pectus', breast or chest.

EXPEDITE. Literally, 'to free the feet of' a hindrance, from Latin 'pedis', of the foot. 'Impede' is from 'impedire', to shackle the feet.

EXPEND. Implies, from its formation, a careful spending of time or effort; the second syllable of the word is from the Latin, pendere, to weigh.

EXPLODE. This word and 'applaud' have their roots in the same Latin word, plaudere, to clap, the former having an original meaning of 'to clap off' or 'hiss off' the stage. In its true sense the word has been used as late as the middle of the 19th century.

EXTRAVAGANT. From the Latin words 'extra' and 'vagari'—to 'wander out of bounds', originally in a literal sense and later, figuratively.

FABIAN. One who follows the dilatory strategy of Q. Fabius, who fought against the Roman leader, Hannibal.

FABLE. This word and 'FAME' have their roots ultimately in the Latin word fari, to speak.

FACETIOUS. From the Latin root 'facetus', meaning 'urbane'.

FADE. From Old French 'fader', insipid. Perhaps from 'vapidus' the Latin root of the English word vapid.

FAHRENHEIT. From the Prussian inventor of the system of measuring temperatures, which bears his name.

FAIENCE. Earthenware of the type produced at Faenza, Italy.

FAIR. From the Latin *feria*, holiday. In German is the word *Ferien*, a vacation.

FAKE. Probably from the German word 'fegen', to sweep, with perhaps no other connection than that the sense of 'making presentable out of poor material', might imply the use of sweepings.

FALCON. A bird of prey so named because its beak is curved like a sickle, from Latin 'falx'. v. *delfalcate*.

FALDERAL. As early as 1701 'fal deral' was used as a meaningless refrain in songs.

FAMILY. 'Family' and 'familiar' are from the same Latin word 'familia', the household.

FAN. From Latin 'vannus', a winnowing basket. In the process of winnowing the air was agitated by the device which is now known as a fan. The Hebrew word 'zaw-rah' was used for two types of

fans: one, which was much like the modern pitch fork and by which the cut grain was tossed into the air so that the wind could carry the chaff away, and the other, like our modern fan, created a current of wind, when the air was still.

FANATIC. A temple dweller, from Latin 'fanum', temple. This word furnishes an etymological comment upon excessive religious zeal.

FARAD. An electro-magnetic unit of capacity named for the electrician Faraday who died in 1867.

FARCE. This word had an original meaning of stuffing, used metaphorically of interlude in a theatrical production, from Latin 'farcire', to stuff.

FARM. In mediaeval times tracts of land were ordinarily leased to tenants upon condition that payment be made in one of several ways, viz., by the delivery of a fixed quantity of grain or produce, by the performance of a certain amount of labor, or by the payment of a definite sum of money. The fact that the rent was fixed or firm, developed first the expression 'firm or farm rent', which was taken from Med. Latin 'firma', a fixed payment, and extending from the meaning of the payment itself the word was then used to include the thing for which payment was made, viz., the farm. Old English Village records contain many detailed references to the character of all these payments; such as a farthing,

$\frac{1}{3}$ hen and, mirabile dictu, $\frac{1}{2}$ egg. Since monetary inflation has come to be much feared in the United States, a number of very important long-term leases which provide for payment in a fixed number of bushels of wheat, have been reported.

FARO. This word meaning a gambling card game is taken from the name Pharaoh, but its development and significance are in doubt.

FARRIER. The shoeing-smith takes his name from the material with which he works—from Latin 'ferrum' meaning 'iron'.

FASCIST. From the Latin 'fascis', a bundle. In Roman history the fasces was a bundle of rods with an axe in the center, carried as an ensign of authority, and illustrative of strength in union.

FATHOM. From Old English 'faethm', 'the outstretched arms' from which has come the meaning of six feet, which is approximately the length of outstretched arms. There is also the archaic verb 'fathom,' which meant to embrace or encircle with the arms.

FATIGUE. Here there is a probability that one of the evidences of weariness has come to be understood as its cause. The word is at least closely related to the Latin, 'fatiscere', to gape or yawn. A like situation exists with the word feeble, from the Latin word 'flere', to weep.

FEE. This word originated in times when roving tribesmen in the north of Europe used cattle as a medium of exchange, and just as 'chattel' and 'cattle' were synonymous in southern countries, so 'fee' and 'money' were the same thing in the north. In Germany cattle are called 'Vieh', pronounced the same as the English word 'fee'. In Anglo-Saxon the word 'feoh' meant both 'cattle' and 'money'. In Middle English the word appeared as 'fief', the meaning of which has survived in the legal expressions 'fee simple' and 'hold in fee', and another meaning of the same form of the word in the remuneration paid for professional services.

FELON. From the Latin word 'fel', the bitter substance known as gall, an oversupply of which may have been considered a necessary concomitant to felonious conduct. 'Felon' and 'gall' are both related to the word 'yellow'.

FENCE. In the sense of a protection against intruders, such as a railing or wall, is a shortened form of 'defence'. The English word 'town', is perhaps related to the German word 'Zaun', meaning a fence. In Mediaeval Europe, towns were invariably surrounded by walls or fences for purposes of defence.

FENDER. A shortened form of 'defender'.

FETISH. From the Portuguese word 'feitico', meaning 'charm'. The word has also been attrib-

uted to 'Fetish', an African idol referred to by Hakluyt.

FIB. Related to the word 'fable'.

FIBULA. A Latin word meaning 'brooch'. The fibula is the outer bone, of the two forming the brooch-like skeleton of the leg from the knee to the ankle.

FIEND. From an Old Teutonic word meaning 'hate'. In German is the word 'Feind', meaning enemy.

FILBERT. A nut which ripens about St. Philbert's day, August 22nd.

FILLET. From the Latin 'filum', thread, with reference to meat which was tied into a roll before being cooked.

FILTER. Filter and 'felt' are from the same Teutonic root, the connection between the two words being explained by the fact that the first filters were made of felt, a pressed woolen material.

FINANCE. From an old French word, 'finer', to settle a debt, and is from the same root as the Latin word, *finis*, end.

FINGERING. A kind of wool for stockings is from the French, 'fin grain', meaning fine grain. A coarse fabric known as grogram, is from 'gros grain', large grain.

FINNAN. A fish, perhaps from the river Findhorn.

FLABBERGAST. From a Middle English word 'gasten', to scare, and 'flappe', an instrument with which to kill flies. The word has grown much weightier since its earliest combination, which might now be freely translated as 'to frighten with a fly-swatter'.

FLANNEL. Perhaps from the Welsh word 'gwlan', meaning 'wool'.

FLIP-FLAP. An imitative word.

FLORIN. The foreign coin, takes its name from the fact that it was originally stamped with a flower, Latin 'florem'. 'Dollar' is from German 'Taler', first called a 'Joachimstaler', because made from silver mined at Joachimstal, or Joachim's Dale, in Bohemia.

FLOUR. A variant of the word 'flower', which, by reason of the method of producing it, originally meant the 'finest part' of the grain.

FLUNKEY. Perhaps from 'flank', in the sense of 'at one's side'.

FOCUS. The Latin word for 'hearth'. The present meaning of the word is an interesting commentary upon the importance of the hearth.

FOND. From an obsolete word, *fou*, meaning to become insipid.

FOOL. From the Latin word, '*folis*', a 'wind-bag' or 'bellows'. *Follicle* and *folly* are from the same root, but the word '*folly*' used in connection with a man's name designating a costly and useless building, as his '*folly*', is from a confusion with the French use of '*folie*', meaning 'favourite dwelling'. *Fool's cap*, used to designate the size of a sheet of paper, is taken from the jester's cap and bells which served as the watermark of an unknown seventeenth century paper manufacturer.

FOOT-PAD. Literally a robber who goes about his work on foot. A '*padder*' was first one who was on the road, the word coming from Dutch '*pad*', meaning road, and later took on the meaning of highwayman. In modern German is the word *Pfade*, path.

FORECLOSE. From Old French '*for*' meaning 'out' and English '*close*', to close out.

FORLORN HOPE. From Dutch '*verloren hoop*', a lost troop.

FORSYTHIA. A flowering shrub named for the English botanist William Forsyth who died in 1804.

FOSSIL. This word has its root in Latin '*fossilis*', which in turn is from the verb '*fodere*', to dig.

FOUNDER. Literally to go to the bottom, from 'fundus', Latin for 'bottom'.

FOUR-IN-HAND. As a neck-tie, this word is probably taken from the type of neckwear worn by those who rode to sporting events in vehicles drawn by four horses—the driver having 'four-in-hand'.

FRANC. From the Latin expression *Frankorum Rex*, King of the Franks, from the legend which appeared on the first coin so-called.

FREE. From an Aryan word 'pri', to love. The free, as distinguished from the slaves, were the loved ones of a household. The word branched off from its original meaning, clinging to the idea of the privileges enjoyed, rather than to the mere attribute of being loved.

FRET. From Old English 'fretan', to eat away, used now figuratively in a connection which indicates the effect of worry upon the physical system.

FRIEZE. A fringe, of the type produced at Phrygia.

FROCK. Perhaps from Old High German, *hroch*, or modern German *Rock*, a coat.

FROU-FROU. Imitative of a rustling sound.

FRUGAL. Originally from Latin 'frux', profit.

FUCHSIA. Shrub named for Fuchs, a German botanist.

FULCRUM. A Latin word meaning 'bed-post', the shape of which was imitated in making a base upon which a lever could rest.

FUMBLE. From Old English 'folm', palm of the hand; the word has reference to the awkwardness that accompanies the use of the palms of the hands instead of the fingers.

FURLONG. An eighth of an English statute mile, is literally "furrow long". The connection between this measure of distance and a furrow is explained by the fact that originally an acre (Latin *ager*, a field)—when it came to have a definite area—was a plot of land rectangular in shape, the length of which was ten times its breadth. The length of the plot known as an acre was 660 feet or an eighth of a mile. The width was 66 feet or an eightieth of a mile. Thus, when a farmer leased an acre of land he was tenant of a tract of a definite shape and its length was fixed. He plowed from end to end, a distance of a "furrow long". In many parts of Europe there are still small rectangular fields, not differing much from the mediaeval proportions of ten to one.

FUSTIAN. A cotton cloth, perhaps from Fostat, a suburb of Cairo.

GABERDINE. A loose upper garment worn by almsmen or pilgrims, which probably takes its name from a Middle High German word, 'walle-vart', meaning pilgrimage.

GALAXY. Originally used only to refer to the band of stars comprising the Milky Way. The word means milk and is from the Greek 'galaktos'. Compare the Latin form 'lactis'.

GALILEE. The Galilee porch of a church is that part outside the church proper. The allusion is perhaps to Galilee as an outlying portion of the Holy Land. v. Matthew 4, 15, "beyond Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles".

GALLANT. May have its origin in an Old High German word meaning 'wander' or 'travel' and its present meaning 'showy, stately or chivalrous', may refer to the dress or manners of a person 'en tour'.

GALLIPOT. Probably from galley-pot, the small earthen vessels used on Mediterranean galleys.

GALORE. From Irish 'go leor' meaning 'to sufficiency'.

GALOSH. Literally a 'foot of logs', from the Greek 'kala', logs, and 'pous', foot.

GALVANISM. Named for the discoverer, Galvani.

GAMBIT. A sacrifice play in chess, made in order to secure a surprise advantage through a later move—from the Latin 'gambetto',—'a tripping up'.

GAMBOGE. A yellow pigment named for Cambodia, where the tree that produces it is found.

GAMMER. From 'grandmother' as 'gaffer' is from 'grandfather'.

GAMUT. In the mediaeval musical scale the Greek letter 'gamma', G, represented the note which was one tone lower than the classical A. Gamma combined with the Latin 'ut'—first note of the scale formed, gamut. In the musical scale the first note 'ut' has been replaced by 'do', and the other notes take their names from the underscored syllables of the Sapphic stanza: '*Ut* queant laxis *re*sonare fibris *mi*ra gestorum *fa*muli tuorum, *So*lve polluti *la*bii reatum, Sancte Johannes'. The first note, 'do', is an arbitrary substitution for 'ut' and is without explanation. To the six chord scale, originally ut, re, mi, fa, sol, and la was added 'si' and the first note repeated as 'do'. It is possible that the seventh note 'si' is a variation of the first two letters of the word 'Sancte', from the foregoing stanza.

GARAGE. From the French 'garer', to shunt.

GARBAGE. Literally, 'group of bundles', perhaps in the sense of such bundles as are cast aside. Old French garbe, bundle.

GARDENIA. Named for Dr. A. Garden, who died in 1791.

GARGOYLE. Literally 'throat'. Old French.

GARIBALDI. Blouse of the type worn by General Garibaldi and his adherents.

GARLIC. From Old English 'garleac', literally spear or pointed leek.

GARNISH. The meaning of this word has been modified over many years from its original 'fortify', to 'embellish'.

GARRET. From Old French 'garite', a watch-tower; the word was first used with reference to the topmost floor of a house, when that point was used as a lookout, for purposes of defence.

GARTER. Originally meant the bend of the knee from Old French, gartier.

GAS. A word invented by Van Helmont, and based on the Greek word for chaos, namely, Khaos.

GASP. Considerable life has been added to this word since its birth in the Old Nordic word, geispa, meaning 'to yawn'.

GATLING. The gun which was first used in the Civil War was named for its inventor Dr. R. J. Gatling.

GAUNTLET. In the expression 'to run the gauntlet' this word is from Swedish 'gatlopp', in which 'gat' means street, and 'lopp', to run, or leap. It is a form of punishment devised by the Swedish military authorities during the Thirty Years' War.

GAZEBO. A balcony or belvedere perhaps having its origin in facetious formation from the word gaze, since such objects are placed so as to afford an extensive view.

GAZETTE. From the Italian word *gazetta*, a small Venetian coin, which might have been the price of early official lists.

GEM. From Latin *gemma*, a bud.

GENTIAN. A plant named for Gentius, king of Illyria.

GENTILE. From the same root as gentility and gentleman; if chosen by the non-Jewish, it furnishes an example of an immodest use of a word to express superiority over another race. With the same motives, but in the opposite manner have arisen the present meaning of 'barbarian' and 'heathen'.

GERANIUM. From the Greek word, *geranos*, a crane, because its seed pods are like a crane's bill.

GERMANE. From an Old French word, *germanus*, meaning 'of the same parents', and from the same root as 'germ'.

GERRYMANDER. This word was formed by the substitution of the name of Governor Gerry of Massachusetts for 'sala' in 'salamander'. Governor Gerry rearranged the voting districts of his State in such a way as to ensure the election of a majority of his party's candidates.

GEYSER. From Geysir, the name of a particular Icelandic specimen, of intermittent hot spring.

GHETTO. Perhaps an abbreviation of 'borghetto' an Italian word founded upon 'borgo', a borough.

GIAOUR. Contemptuous name used by the Turks in referring to Christians.

GIBBET. Old French diminutive of 'gibe', a club.

GIN. Shortened form of 'geneva', a distilled drink, which word, in turn, has its root in the Latin 'juniperus', juniper.

GINGHAM. From a Malayan word, gingang.

GINSENG. From the Chinese words 'jen shen', meaning 'image of man', the allusion being to the forked root of the plant.

GLADIOLUS. This word and 'gladiator' have their root in Latin 'gladius', a sword. The sword-like shape of the leaf accounts for the name 'gladiolus'.

GLADSTONE BAG. Named for the English statesman W. E. Gladstone.

GLAMOUR. A corruption of the word 'grammar', which has its root in Old French 'gramaire', learning. The corruption probably came about from the fact that this same French root is the basis of the English word 'gramarye', meaning magic.

GLAND. From the Latin 'glans', an acorn, perhaps because of similarity in shape.

GLAUBER'S SALTS. Named for the German chemist, J. R. Glauber.

GLOXINIA. Plant named for the botanist, G. P. Gloxin.

GLUTEN. From the Latin word 'glutinis', of glue.

GOITER. From the Latin word for throat, namely, 'guttur'.

GOOD-BYE. Contraction of 'God be with you', with the substitution of 'good' on the analogy of 'good-night'.

GOOSEBERRY. The first syllable is from Old French 'groise', meaning 'hairy'.

GORILLA. Probably an African word meaning 'wild man'.

GOSPEL. From 'god spel', Old English for 'good tidings', which form was later changed to god

spel, by confusion with Old English 'god', meaning God.

GOSSAMER. Filmy web seen spread over the grass in early November, the season of the year when geese are eaten. The word probably is a contraction of 'goose-summer',—the webs appearing on warm summer-like November days.

GOSSIP. A word of some dignity in its Old English form, godsibb, 'a person related to one in God', such as a sponsor at baptism.

GOUT. From Latin 'gutta', drop, with reference to an old theory that the fluids tended to flow to the lowest joints, hence dropsy. 'Gutter' is from the same root, and for the same reason.

GOWN. Originally only a garment made of fur, from which it is an easy transition to any dress with pretensions to elegance. (Med. Latin 'gunna', fur garment.)

GRAFT. This word has its origin in the Greek word 'graphion', a stylus or pen, because of the similarity in shape between a stylus and the cut shoot of a plant which is inserted in another stalk in the grafting operation.

GRAHAM. A health bread named for the originator, Graham, who died at the age of fifty-one.

GRANADE. Because of a similarity in shape, this word has been taken from the Spanish 'gra-

nada', a pomegranate; its present meaning is a far cry from the fruit orchards of Spain.

GRAPE. This word and 'grapple', are from the same root. In Old French 'grape' was a hook and the verb 'graper' meant 'to gather with a vine hook'. Here the fruit of the vine took the name of the instrument used to gather it.

GRATE. From a similarity in design, this word has come from the Latin, 'cratis', a hurdle. A hurdle laid horizontally has become a grate. In form 'cratis' has been preserved in the word crate, which is a combination, in box form, of a grate and hurdles.

GRAVEL. From Old French 'grave', a shore. The English word being derived from the French diminutive form 'gravelle', means literally, 'little shore'.

GRAVY. This word as French 'gravé' is probably a misreading for 'grané' in old French cook-books where the word 'grain' referred to anything used in cookery.

GREENGAGE. A plum, the cultivation of which was encouraged by the Englishman, Sir William Gage.

GRENADINE. The dress fabric, is perhaps named for the Spanish City of Granada.

GROAN. From Old English 'granian', a cognate form of which is the word 'grin'.

GROAT. Literally a 'great' or thick penny. The word which was originally Dutch and probably referred to a Dutch copper coin, was first used in England in 1351 as the name of a silver coin valued at that time at about eight cents. In mediæval German there were 'grosze pfennige', thick pennies, the name of which has survived in that country as 'groschen'.

GUILLOTINE. Named for its inventor Dr. Guillotin. Its adoption terminated the practice of sword beheadings. The invention of the guillotine has been attributed to Dr. Antoine Louis, for whom it was for some time called the Louison or Louissette. Similar devices are of a much earlier date than the French Revolution. In Italy, from the 13th Century such a machine was called a 'mannaia', and in Scotland, one constructed upon similar lines was called a 'maiden'. It is probable that the ancient Persians first executed prisoners by the use of the blade falling between two wooden guides.

GUINEA. The English equivalent of 21 shillings, named for a part of the West coast of Africa because this gold coin was first made in the latter part of the 17th Century for use in the African trade.

GUN. By a mediæval custom, cannon were frequently given personal names. Norsemen used for this purpose the woman's name Gunnhildr, a pet

form of which, namely Gunna, is the root of the English word gun. A late example of this was 'Big Bertha', the German gun, named for Bertha Krupp, owner of the Grupp Steelworks at Essen.

GUNNY. Frequently used tautologically as a 'gunnysack', is from the Sanskrit 'goni', a sack.

GURGLE. An imitative word.

GUSH. Probably imitative.

GUTTA-PERCHA. Malayan for 'gum of the percha tree'.

GUY. This word dates back to November 5, 1605—on which day the plot to destroy the English Houses of Parliament by a blast of gunpowder was discovered. Guy Fawkes was arrested as he was about to set off the charge. Thereafter, on November 5th, known in England as Guy Fawkes' day, his body was carried about the streets in effigy. These ragged figures gave rise to the use of the word to describe any grotesquely dressed person.

GYMNASIUM. Literally, a place for exercise in the nude, from the Greek 'gumnos', naked. In Athens, the principal training which the youth received in school was in athletics, where exercise was taken without clothing.

In English, the idea of 'exercise hall' has been preserved, and in German the word is now applied to the highest type of preparatory school.

HABERDASHER. Originally, a dealer in small wares of many kinds and later one who sold small articles of men's dress. In Stow's English Chronicles, 1561 appears: 'The Milloners or Haberdashers, in that place sold mousetrappes, bird cages, shooing hornes, Lanthornes, and Jews trumpes' and in 1550 daggers and swords were listed among the wares of a haberdasher.

HACK. This word and 'hackney' are from the French 'haquenee', a horse used for ordinary riding—one incapable of doing other service than as a drudge.

HA-HA. This little used English word was applied to a sunken fence surrounding a garden.

HALCYON. From the Greek 'alkuon', a kingfisher. The expression 'halcyon days' arose from the fable that at the winter solstice the kingfisher built a floating nest on the sea and during the breeding season possessed a charm to calm the waves in protection of its nest.

HALIBUT. Literally a holy butt, or flat fish eaten on holy-days, now called 'holidays'.

HAM. From Old Teutonic, ham, 'to be crooked', an allusion to the shape of the back of the thigh.

HANDICAP. From the expression 'hand i cap' or 'hand in the cap',—the name of a 17th Century

game of chance in which the forfeit-money was deposited in a cap or hat. The connection with horse racing arose from the fact that in the original game the difference in value between the articles at stake was set by an umpire.

HANGNAIL. See Agnail.

HANSOM. Type of cab, patented by Hansom in 1834.

HARANGUE. Formerly, the audience, standing or seated in a ring (Teutonic, hring) about the speaker. In the transition from the mediaeval Latin, 'harenga' came to mean the speech, and not the 'ring of listeners'.

HARASS. This word is probably from Old French 'harer', meaning to 'set a dog on one'. Another form of this word is 'haze'.

HARBOR. Originally only in the sense of a shelter for an army from Middle English 'here', army and 'beorg' shelter.

HAREM. An Arabian word meaning 'prohibited'.

HARLOT. Originally used only with reference to a male—a knave, or even, merely, a lad.

HARPOON. From Greek 'harpe', a sickle or claw. The Harpies of the Greek plays were 'The Snatchers'.

HASH. From the same root as hatchet, with an allusion to the method of preparing the dish.

HAVERSACK. From the German; literally 'oats sack'.

HAZARD. From the Spanish 'azar', an unfortunate happening; the word came into English as hazard, originally a game of chance played with dice.

HEARSE. From French 'herse', from Latin 'hirpex', a harrow. In mediaeval farming the herse was a triangular implement used as a harrow for levelling and breaking up the earth. In religious processions a triangular framework bearing lighted candles was called a herse because the candles were suggestive of the teeth of a harrow. The word next came to be used to refer to the framework upon which a coffin was carried in a funeral procession.

HEATHEN. Literally, 'a heath dweller'; one not sharing the opinions of the townspeople, who adopted and used the word to express 'unenlightened people'. See 'barbarian', 'grotesque' and 'pagan'.

HELIOTROPE. Literally a plant turning its flowers to the sun, from the Greek, 'heliotropion'.

HELLEBORE. Plant supposed to cure insanity. from Greek 'helleboros'.

HELOT. Merely a Spartan slave, whose name is taken from the Greek word 'helein', to capture.

As a proper name it was also used to refer to the inhabitants of several towns named Helos, the most important of which was in Laconia. A 'drunken helot' was one whom the Spartans had made drunk merely to serve as an example to their own youth. Russian and Nazi pogroms have followed closely along the lines of the Spartan treatment of their helots and the oft repeated praise of that country is an excellent example of the forgetfulness of the human race!

HELPMEET. This word has arisen out of a misunderstanding of the sentence 'I will make an help meet for him', which appears in the second chapter of Genesis, 18th verse, where 'meet' is the archaic word 'suitable' and not a form of the word 'mate'.

HELTER-SKELTER. An imitative word.

HERB. From Latin 'herba', 'grass'.

HERMETIC. From Hermes, Greek name of Egyptian god who presided over the secrets of science.

HERMIT. Literally, a desert dweller. (Greek *eremia*, a desert.)

HIDALGO. From Spanish 'hijo dalgo'; ultimately from the Latin 'filius de aliquo', meaning 'son of something'.

HOAX. A shortened form of the 17th Century sham Latin, 'hocus pocus'.

HOLLYHOCK. The last syllable is from Old English 'hoc', a type of mallow. The plant was brought from the Holy Land, and its name should therefore be 'holyhock'.

HONEYMOON. Originally had no reference to the journey or vacation of a newly-married pair, but referred to the period immediately following marriage, which commenced 'honey-sweet', but changed and waned like the moon.

HOOK. In the expression 'by hook or by crook', perhaps refers to acquiring an object, stealthily, by means of a hook or by an object in the shape of a shepherd's crook.

HOOLIGAN. Name of a family in Southward, Ireland, whose members were notorious for their wild escapades.

HORRIBLE. Literally covered with bristles. (Latin, horribilis.)

HOTTENTOT. A Dutch word probably meaning a 'stammerer'.

HUMBLE. Literally 'on the ground'—in a low position; humiliate, to put on the ground; both words have their root in the Latin word 'hummus' ground.

HUMBLE PIE. Has no connection with the word 'humble' as ordinarily used, but refers to a meat pie made from the 'umbles', or lower parts of the stag.

HUMOR. This word in mediaeval physiology referred to the fluids of the body, the proper proportion of each of which were thought to be determinative of one's health and temperament. Although one may still be in good or bad humor, the word now largely refers to qualities associated with the ludicrous, and the ability to sense comedy.

HUNDRED. Literally, a hundred numbers, from Old English 'hund', a hundred and 'red' number.

HURDY-GURDY. Probably an imitative word.

HURRY. From a Scandinavian imitative word 'to hurr', meaning to whirr or whiz.

HUSBAND. A house owner, from Old English 'hus' and 'bonda'.

HUSK. Probably a diminutive of 'hus', Anglo-Saxon 'house', hence the 'little house' in which grain or peas are found. It has been suggested that husk, house and hose are related words.

HUSSY. A shortened form of 'housewife'.

HYACINTH. From a combination of Greek words meaning 'flower' and 'gem'.

HYBRID. From Latin 'hybrida', originally used to refer to the offspring of a tame sow and a wild boar.

HYDRANGEA. Literally a 'water vessel'. (Greek 'hudor' and 'aggos'.)

HYENA. A feminine form of the Greek word 'hus', a pig.

HYSTERIA. From the Greek 'husterikos', the womb, the disturbance usually being associated with women.

IDIOM. From the Greek 'idioomai', to make one's own, hence, to coin an expression for oneself.

IDIOT. From the same ultimate root as idiom, namely 'idios', 'own' or 'private'; the word idiot was first applied to those having different views or ideas from one's own, and consequently took on the meaning 'ignorant' person or layman, before arriving at the present meaning of the word.

IDOL. From 'eidolon', Greek word for phantom. Idyll is to be traced to the same ultimate root.

IGNOMINY. The full extent of dishonor implied by this word is understood by a literal translation of its root 'in', not and 'gnomen', name—without a name.

IGNORAMUS. Literally 'we do not know'. The modern sense perhaps dates from the publica-

tion in 1615 of Ruggle's 'Ignoramus', which exposed a lawyer's ignorance.

IMMORTELLE. So named because its flowers retain their color after they have been dried.

IMMUNE. Originally, in its Latin form, expressed only exemption from public duty or burden.

IMP. From Old English 'impa', a young shoot from a plant or tree.

IMPEDIMENT. Literally, entanglement of the feet, from the Latin 'impedimentum'; the plural 'impedimenta' was used, for sufficiently obvious reasons, to refer to 'baggage', especially that carried by an army, where its quality of 'hindrance to the feet' would be most evident.

IMPERATIVE. The most usual form of command has been to prepare or to make something ready, because of which the Late Latin 'imperare', to make ready, has been extended to the meaning of 'to command', or 'to be urgent'.

IMPLORE. Literally, 'to entreat with tears', from Latin, 'plorare', to weep.

IMPROMPTU. In its original sense this word meant the opposite of 'off hand', or 'without preparation'. Its translation from the Latin means 'to have in readiness'.

INAUGURATE. This word recalls the custom, in ancient Rome, of employing the services of an augur or diviner at the time of undertaking an important public task or office. Frequently a change of public officials was not declared until the omens, such as the flight of birds, were interpreted as favorable to the proposed change. Literally the word inaugurate means 'to take omens' and its root is, perhaps, a combination of 'avis', bird and 'gar', shout or make known—to make known by means of a bird. v. Auspicious.

INCUNABULA. Sometimes called cradle-books, because printed during the infancy or cradle days of the art of printing, that is, before the year 1500. The word means, literally, 'swaddling clothes', having its root in the Latin word 'cunae', cradle.

INDEX. From the Latin 'in' and 'dicere', to say, meaning originally, an informer and, later meaning the forefinger, perhaps because it was frequently used in pointing out an object. Another form of the same root word is 'indict', to make known.

INDIGO. Literally 'Indian dye', from the Greek, indikon.

INDOLENT. Originally this word did not imply laziness, but merely the inactivity that accompanies grief. The word comes from the Late Latin 'in' and 'dolere', to grieve.

INERT. Literally without art or skill and probably referring to slowness caused by inability to accomplish a thing artfully.

INFANT. From the Latin 'in' and 'fantis', literally, 'not speaking'. The word 'infantry', from the same root doubtless refers to the youth of the foot soldiers who made up this branch of any army.

INFER. Originally meant 'to bring in'. (Latin *ferre*, to bring.) Fertile is from the same root, as is also, perhaps, the word, 'ferry'.

INFERNAL. Literally, 'situated below', from the Latin 'infernalis'. The connection of this word with hell, of course, arises from the general belief that the place known as hell is below us.

INFLUENCE. This word and 'influenza' and 'influx' are from Latin 'in' and 'fluere'—to flow into. 'Influence' was first used in astrology, as a flowing of an ethereal fluid from the stars into man, the source of the fluid affecting his character. In the word 'influenza' the 'flowing' is the visitation in epidemic proportions of the disease upon a community.

INGREDIENT. Literally something that 'steps into' a mixture. (Latin 'in' and 'gredi'.)

INK. Originally only a purple writing fluid used by Roman emperors for their signature. The Greek root 'egkauston', survives in the English

word, encaustic, perhaps indicating something of the quality of the ingredients of the original ink.

INNOCENT. This word which now means one who is guiltless, or has inflicted no harm, originally meant one who has not been harmed. (Latin 'in' and 'nocere'—not hurt.)

INNUENDO. The type of allusion that can be indicated by a nod of the head from the Latin 'innuere', to nod.

INOCULATE. Literally, 'to put into the eye', perhaps with reference to the point on the branch of a tree where a graft is made.

INSECT. From the Latin 'insectus', meaning 'having been cut in', with reference to the fact that these creatures give the appearance of having been cut into, or almost divided. Entomology, that branch of science which deals with insects, is from the Greek 'en' and 'temnein', meaning 'cut into'.

INSIDIOUS. From Latin 'in' and 'sedere', to sit in, as in ambush; hence treacherous. See Assiduous.

INSOLENT. Literally, something to which one is unaccustomed, from the Latin 'in' and 'solere'.

INSULT. To leap toward, having its root in Latin, 'salire', to leap.

INTEGER. Literally, not touched, from 'in' and 'tag', from the Latin root of 'tangere', to touch.

INTOXICATE. This word has its origin in the Greek word *toxon*, 'bow' or 'arrow', and from the fact that arrows, in warfare, were frequently poisoned, there was developed the word 'toxicon', meaning the poison in which they were dipped. In English the original meaning of the root has survived in 'toxic' and 'toxin' and of the derivative word in 'auto-intoxication'.

INVESTIGATE. Literally, to follow foot prints; this word and 'vestige' have been developed from the Latin, *vestigium*, foot print. See Pedigree.

INVOLVE. From the Latin 'in' and 'volvere', to roll in.

IODINE. Takes its name from the violet-like color of its vapor. (Greek, *iodes*, violet-like.)

IRONY. From the Greek 'eironeia', meaning simulated ignorance.

ISINGLASS. This word is an arbitrary corruption of an obsolete Dutch word 'huisenblas', meaning 'sturgeon bladder'. The semi-transparency of the two is the only apparent connection between them.

ISLAM. The history of Mohammedanism is reflected in this word, which is from Arabic 'aslama', meaning 'he surrendered'.

ITEM. A Latin adverb meaning 'in like manner'.

JAMB. Literally 'leg', from French 'jambe'.

JANITOR. Doorkeeper, from Latin *janua*, door.

JAUNTY. From French 'gentil', genteel.

JAW. Perhaps cognate with 'chew'.

JEALOUS. From the Late Latin 'zelosus', which is also the root of 'zeal'.

JEAN. A kind of cloth probably first made in Genoa; from 'Gene', the Middle English word for Genoa.

JEJUNUM. A part of the intestines usually empty, from the Latin 'jejunus', fasting. See Duodenum and Rectum.

JELLY. Literally 'frost', from French, 'gelee'. From the same root is 'congeal', frequently an effect produced by cold or frost.

JEOPARDY. Ultimately from Latin, 'jocus', game and 'partitus', divided, hence 'divided or even game', probably used in law because an accused person is frequently spoken of as having been in jeopardy, although neither actually acquitted nor found guilty—a drawn game.

JERK. Probably imitative.

JEST. Literally 'exploit' from Latin 'gesta'.

JINGLE. An imitative word.

JINGO. A 17th Century conjuror's chatter which took on the meaning of one who is boastful of his country's military strength, from the expression used in the refrain of a London music-hall song which was popular in 1878 when Lord Beaconsfield sent the British fleet into Turkish waters to restrain Russian advances. The lines were:

"We don't want to fight, but, by Jingo, if we do,
We got the ships, we got the men, we got the
mun-aye too" . . .

and later, the final line:

"The Russ'ns shall not 'ave Constantino-ple."

JOCKEY. From Jock, Scottish for Jack. Borrow suggests the possibility of a connection between 'jockey' and 'chuckiri', a Romany word for 'whip'.

JORDAN ALMOND. Probably from French 'jardin', therefore, literally 'garden almond'.

JOT. From 'iota', the Greek letter 'i'.

JOURNEY. Literally, 'a day's travel', from Old French 'jorn', a day. Journal is from the Latin, 'diurnal', belonging to the day. A 'Journeyman' was a member of a mediaeval guild of workmen who, in order to gain experience in their trade and a knowledge of their country, travelled from one city to another, working only a short time in each. Those who were highly skilled presented an example of their work to the guild, and, if found satisfactory

they were called 'passed' or 'past masters', and the work itself called a 'masterpiece'.

JOUST. Literally, 'to be near' from Latin 'juxta', from which word also comes 'juxtaposition'.

JUDAS TREE. So called because it was supposed this was the tree from which Judas hanged himself after betraying Jesus, and because the buds of the flowers of the tree look like blood drops.

JUGGERNAUT. Originally, 'lord of the world' from Sanskrit, 'jagat' world and 'natha', lord.

JULEP. Literally, rose water, from Persian 'gul' rose and 'ab', water.

JUMBLE. Probably imitative.

JUNKET. From Old Northern French jonquette, 'rush basket', in which junket was made.

JUROR. Originally, one who took an oath for any purpose, from Latin jurare, to swear.

JUTE. From the Sanskrit 'juta' and meaning, literally, 'a braid of hair'.

KALEIDOSCOPE. Literally 'beautiful form' from the Greek words 'kalos' and 'eidos'.

KENNEL. From the Latin 'canis', dog.

KERCHIEF. From Old French, 'covrir', cover and 'chief', head, literally, a cover for the head.

KERNEL. From Old English 'cyrnel', a diminutive form of the word 'corn'.

KETCHUP. Probably literally, 'brine of pickled fish', from Chinese 'koe-chiap'.

KIBITZER. From the German 'Kibitz', a plover or lapwing. These birds, when disturbed, make a loud and persistent noise. It is reported that the word used in connection with someone who makes annoying suggestions to one engaged in a game, was first used by a Dr. Ziff, of Berlin, who was disturbed by an acquaintance during a game of chess. His reply was, 'Don't be a kibitz'. The form 'kibitzer' is doubtless an Americanization of this German word.

KIDNAP. Literally, 'to seize a young goat'. The second syllable is from an obsolete word 'nap', probably closely related to 'nab'.

KILN. Ultimately from Latin 'culina', kitchen.

KILT. From a Scandinavian verb meaning 'to tuck up', hence the short skirt as worn in Scotland is so called.

KNAPSACK. Probably a combination of a Low German word, 'knappen', bite and the English word 'sack', hence a 'bag for food'.

KNICKERS. The name itself is taken from 'Diedrich Knickerbocker', the pretended author of

Washington Irving's 'History of New York', in which the inhabitants were depicted in baggy knee-breeches.

KNIGHT. From Old English 'cniht', a lad or servant.

KNUCKLE. From Middle Low German 'knocke', bone. The form 'knuckle' is a diminutive.

LABORATORY. Obviously enough, a place for labor. (Latin, laborare, to labor.)

LACE. Literally 'noose', from the manner of its making by tying one small noose to another. (Latin, laqueus, noose.)

LACONIC. From the Greek 'Lakon', Spartan; of a race known for brevity of speech.

LADY. Literally, 'a loaf kneader', from Old English 'hlaf', loaf and 'dig', to knead, hence 'hlaef-dige', the predecessor of 'lady'. The word 'lord' is from the same homely beginning—'hlaf-ord', meaning warden or guardian of the loaf.

LADY'S SLIPPER. In this case, the slipper of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary.

LAMPOON. From a French word 'lampon', which in turn, is probably from Latin, lampoons, meaning 'let us drink'. It was used as part of the refrain in mediaeval French songs of a satirical na-

ture. The slang word 'vamosé', is from Spanish, vamos, meaning 'let us go'.

LANDAU. A four wheeled carriage named for Landau, in Germany.

LARD. An Old French word meaning bacon.

LARIAT. Ultimately from a Spanish verb, 'reatar', meaning 'to tie again'.

LARVA. Literally 'ghost' or 'mask' from a Latin word of the same form.

LATAKIA. Turkish tobacco named for Latakia, a Syrian port.

LATCH. Perhaps from Old French 'lache', meaning 'lace',—understandable when it is considered that the root of 'lace' is a word meaning 'noose'.

LATE. This word is cognate with the Latin word 'lassus', meaning 'tired', a common cause of being late.

LATHER. From an Old English word 'leathor', washing soda; here the cause has been confused with the result; leathor is from the same ultimate root as Latin 'lavare', to wash.

LAUNCH. The boat, so called, is perhaps from Malayan, 'lanchar', meaning 'swift'. v. yacht.

LAVISH. From Old French 'lavache', a down-pour of rain. 'Lava' and 'lavatory' are from the

Latin 'lavare', to wash, which is also the ultimate root of 'lavache'.

LAWN. Kind of fine linen, perhaps named after Laon, a city in France. The word 'lawn' meaning grass-covered ground, is from the same root as land.

LAZY. There is obvious reason for the probability that this word is formed by adding 'sy' to the word 'lay'. In this way the word 'tipsy' was formed.

LEGHORN. A kind of plaited straw imported from a town, called Leghorn, in Italy.

LEGUME. Named for the manner of gathering the fruit of the plants, called legumes. Its root is the Latin word *legere*, 'to pick'.

LEISURE. From the Latin 'licere', to be allowed, with the added sense of doing as one pleases. The word is cognate with 'licentious'.

LENS. From the Latin word 'lens', meaning a lentil. The lens is so called because of its lentil-like shape.

LENTEN. From the same root as 'long', and the lenten season is probably so named with reference to the lengthening days before Easter.

LEOPARD. A combination of Latin, 'leo', a lion, and Greek 'pardos', a leopard; literally 'lion leopard'.

LETHARGY. This word has its root in the Greek word 'lethe', forgetfulness, but lethal is from the Latin word 'letum', death.

LETTUCE. The milky juice of its roots has given the herb this name. The word has its origin in the Latin form 'lactis', meaning 'of milk'.

LEVANT. The Eastern part of the Mediterranean, so called because it lies in the direction of the sunrise. Its root is the French word 'lever', rise, which is from the Latin *levare*, to lift. From the same root are leaven, levee, lever, levity and levy. The word level, however, has its root in the Latin word 'libella', diminutive of 'libra', a balance.

LEWD. From Old English, 'laewede', meaning 'lay', in the sense of 'layman'. In its development, this word is perhaps expressive of the contempt of the educated for the unlearned.

LIBEL. Literally, 'little book', from the Latin 'libellus', a diminutive of 'liber', book. The present meaning of this word has undoubtedly come from the fact that studied attacks upon the character and opinions of public men were frequently printed in pamphlet form.

LIBERTINE. Literally, 'a free man', from the Latin 'libertinus', hence the popular meaning, 'to do as one chooses'.

LICENTIOUS. This word and 'license' have their roots in the same Latin word 'licere', to be lawful.

LIEF. From Old English, 'leof', dear; cognate with 'love'.

LIEUTENANT. Literally, one who holds a position in place of another, from French 'lieu', the root of which is Latin 'locus' and 'tenant', from 'tenere', Latin, meaning 'to hold'. A lieutenant in a military company holds the place of the captain in the latter's absence.

LIGAMENT. This word and 'lien' and 'liable', all have their root in the Latin verb, 'ligare', to bind.

LILAC. A variant form of a Persian word, 'nil', meaning blue. The shrub is therefore named for the color of its most common variety.

LINGO. A corruption of the Latin word 'lingua', language.

LINIMENT. From Latin linire, to smear; a common procedure in applying an embrocation.

LINNET. Originally a bird that feeds on flax seed, or 'linum'; from this Latin word also comes linen and lineage.

LISTERINE. Named after the English scientist, Lord Lister.

LISLE. A thread made originally at Lisle, France.

LOBBY. Originally referring to a room in the English Parliament buildings, which was set aside for interviews between members of Parliament and the public.

LOFT. Literally, sky or air—an Old Norse word. In a building the top floor is sometimes called the loft. The German word for air, is Luft.

LOOP-HOLE. Perhaps literally, 'peep-hole', from Dutch 'lupen', to peer. In the wall of a mediæval castle the 'loop-hole' was a vertical slit in the wall through which arrows could be shot.

LOOM. Originally, a tool of any kind. (Old English *geloma*.)

LUDICROUS. From Latin 'ludere', to play.

LUCUBRATE. Literally 'to work by lamp light', from the Latin root, 'lux', light.

LUMBER. The origin of this word in the sense of timber sawn into rough boards, is somewhat obscure. It may have arisen from the pawn shops that were operated by the Lombards. A Lombard shop became a 'lumber' shop, where there was stored a miscellaneous assortment of used articles which were later called 'lumber', as for instance in 1587, 'tubs, stands, dishes, chaires, stoles and other lumbar'. It

is possible that rough hewn timber took on the name of lumber from the fact that it appeared to be useless or cumbrous material.

LUPINS. A contributor to the English publication, *The Countryman*, suggests that these plants are 'ravenous of the soil', and hence take their name from the Latin 'lupinus', wolf-like. There seems to be no authority for this derivation.

LYCH-GATE. The covered entrance of an English church yard where pall bearers awaited with the corpse (Old English *lic*), the arrival of the clergyman. Literally, corpse-gate.

LYDDITE. Named from the town of Lydd in the County of Kent, England, where this explosive was first tested. It was patented by M. Turpin and in its composition resembles closely the French 'melinite'.

LYNCH. This word, which originated in the United States, refers either to Charles Lynch, a justice of the peace in Virginia, who in 1780 is said to have summarily punished offenders brought before him, or to Lynche's Creek in South Carolina, where a group known as 'Regulators' met to carry out their own ideas of the administration of criminal justice. An early, but quite improbable explanation of the origin of this word, connects it with the story of James F. Lynch, Mayor of Galway, Ireland, who in 1493, tried, condemned and executed his

own son for the murder of a Spaniard who was a guest of the Lynch home. The best accounts of this trial are to the effect that the trial was carried out in all respects in conformity to the laws then in effect, although it is said that it is recorded in the council books of Galway that the trial was 'without martial or common law'.

MACADAM. A type of road building designed by the Scottish engineer J. L. MacAdam.

MACHIAVELIAN. Named after the Florentine statesman, N. Machiavelli.

MACKINTOSH. A water-proof material patented by C. Macintosh.

MADAM. From Old French, literally 'my lady'. Of the same meaning as the 'Italian Madonna'.

MAELSTROM. Literally 'grinding stream', from the Dutch words 'malen' and 'strom'.

MAGENTA. A crimson dye discovered soon after the battle of Magenta, in 1859.

MAGNET. Loadstone originally found at Magnesia.

MAGNOLIA. Tree named for the botanist P. Magnol.

MAGPIE. Mag, being an abbreviation of Margaret, the word is literally, 'Margaret Woodpecker'.

MAIL. This word is taken from the bag in which posted letters were carried. The root is the Old French 'male' meaning bag.

MAINTAIN. Literally, 'to hold in the hand', from Latin 'manu', in the hand and 'tenere', to hold.

MAJOLICA. Italian ware perhaps named for Majorca.

MALAPROPISM. From Mrs. Malaprop, a character in Sheridan's play, "The Rivals," who frequently mistook a word for another resembling it.

MALARIA. From the Italian 'mal aria', literally 'bad air', a condition that the disease usually accompanies.

MANNA. This word has been explained as coming from the Hebrew, 'man hu', meaning, 'what is it?'

MANSARD. A type of roof named after F. Mansard, the architect.

MANUFACTURE. Literally 'to make by hand'.

MANURE. Literally, 'to work by hand'—another form of the word 'manoeuvre'. The allusion is, of course, to an earlier practice, in intensive farming, of mixing fertilizer and earth, by hand.

MAP. Literally, napkin, probably because early maps were sometimes designed on cloth.

MARDI GRAS. French, meaning 'fat Tuesday',—the day before the commencement of Lent. The day was so-called because of the habit of eating heartily just before the period of fasting began. See 'carnival'.

MARIGOLD. A combination of the words 'Mary' and 'gold'.

MARIONETTE. Diminutive of the word Marie.

MARITAL. From the Latin 'maritus', husband. From the same root is the word 'marriage'. For many years a married couple was regarded in law as one person, and that person was the husband.

MARMALADE. From the Greek words, 'meli' honey, and 'melon', apple.

MARRON. Named from the color of a chestnut, from the French 'marron', chestnut.

MARSHAL. From a combination of Old Teutonic words, 'marhoz', horse and 'skalkoz', servant. A public official whose title was of lowly origin.

MASTICATE. This word has its origin in the Greek word 'mastikhe', a resinous substance used as a chewing gum in Greece and Turkey.

MARTINET. The name is taken from Jean Martinet a strict disciplinarian, to whom was given much of the credit for building the excellent in-

fantry, in the model regular army of Louis XIV. While leading an infantry assault he was accidentally killed by his own artillery at the siege of Duisburg.

MARTYR. Originally merely 'a witness', and later, one who is made to suffer for his testimony. (Greek, *martus*.)

MASCOT. It is probable that this word is related to Provençal '*masco*', 'a witch'.

MASTIFF. From Latin '*mansuetus*', meaning 'tame', perhaps with reference to the intelligence of this breed of dogs.

MASTOID. This word meaning 'shaped like a female breast', is derived from Greek '*mastos*', breast.

MATINEE. Literally, 'something that occupies a morning', from the French word '*matin*', morning.

MATTRESS. Appears ultimately to come from an Arabian word '*almatrah*', meaning 'place' where something is thrown.

MAUDLIN. From the name of the tearful Mary Magdalene.

MAUSER. A rifle named for the inventor.

MAUSOLEUM. Named for King Mausolus, in whose memory his widow Queen Artemisia erected a magnificent monument in the year 353 B.C. Some

remains of this monument have been placed in the British Museum.

MAXIM. A machine gun invented by Sir Hiram Maxim.

MAZE. Another form of the word 'amaze'.

MAZURKA. A Polish word, meaning 'woman of Mazovia', the province of Poland in which Warsaw is situated.

MEANDER. From Maiandros or Meander, a winding river in Phrygia.

MEERSCHAUM. Literally 'sea foam'—German.

MELANCHOLY. Literally 'black bile', the presence of which was supposed to cause a state of despondency. (Greek.)

MELODRAMA. Literally, musical drama.

MENNONITE. A religious sect founded in Friesland in the early 16th Century by Menno Simons.

MENTOR. The name of a Greek who was an adviser of Telemachus.

MERCERIZE. Prepare cotton goods for dyeing by a process patented by J. Mercer.

MESMERISM. Named for F. A. Mesmer, an Austrian physician and hypnotist.

METAPHYSICS. This branch of philosophy has taken its name from the fact that in the works of Aristotle, this branch of learning appeared immediately 'after' his discussion of physics. His pupils, having no name for this part of their master's philosophy referred to it merely as 'ta meta ta plusika', by which they meant, the works placed 'after the physics', in the manuscript.

METROPOLIS. A Greek word meaning 'mother city'.

MIDRIF. The second syllable is an Old English word 'hrif', meaning 'belly'.

MIDWIFE. Literally 'with the wife'. In German is the word 'mit' meaning 'with'.

MIGRAINE. A French word meaning a severe headache which usually affects only one side, is from Greek 'hemi' and 'krania' and hence is literally a 'half-skull' or 'half-cranium.'

MIKADO. Japanese, literally 'August door'. Comparable to this expression is 'Sublime Porte', with reference to the Turkish government.

MILE. From Latin mille, meaning 'thousand' and in connection with this word, is a measure of distance, means a 'thousand paces'. A calculation would fix the pace at something more than five feet and the conclusion might be reached that the pace was fixed by a race of giants instead of by the comparatively short Romans. Romans, however, did

not measure the pace as the distance from the right to the left foot in walking, but as the space between successive stationary positions of the same foot. The Roman mile was about 4850 feet and the pace therefore, one thousandth of that distance or about fifty-eight inches. As a pace is now measured, the distance would be twenty-nine inches or a normal step for a short man.

MILLINER. Literally 'a dealer in Milan goods'; the present meaning undoubtedly arose from the importation of hats made of Milan straw.

MINIATURE. So called, from the fact that small pictures were originally painted in vermillion, the Latin word for which is 'minium'.

MINISTER. This word to which now is attached considerable dignity, had a lowly origin in the Latin word, 'minus', meaning less; hence it had an early meaning of 'servant'.

MINT. From the Latin root 'moneta', money. An exactly opposite development has occurred in the word 'coin'.

MINUET. From a French word, 'menuet', a diminutive of 'menu', which is an adjective, meaning 'small' and as a noun its meaning is 'detailed list'.

MIRROR. The history of this word may furnish a commentary upon the pride of its first users. From Latin 'mirari', 'to wonder at'.

MISCREANT. Originally, merely one who did not agree with the speaker, from 'mis' and Latin 'credere', to believe. From mere non-agreement, the word has descended to the meaning of wretch, or vile person.

MISER. A Latin word meaning 'wretched'.

MISTLETOE. From Old English 'mistiltan', in which the first two syllables represent an early form of 'missel',—a thrush that feeds on mistletoe berries,—and the last syllable 'tan' is Old English for 'twig'.

MOB. This word and 'mobile' have their roots in the Latin word 'mobile'.

MOCHA. Coffee originally from Mocha, an Arabian port.

MOHAIR. Ultimately from Arabian mukhayyar, meaning 'choice' or 'select'.

MOLAR. From Latin 'mola', a millstone, used in grinding grain.

MONGOL. From Chinese 'mong', meaning brave. Perhaps an immodest tribute to their own merits in warfare.

MONK. From the Greek 'monos', alone, literally one who lives alone. The word is from the same root as 'monarch', 'monotonous' and 'monopoly'.

MONSTER. Literally 'a portent of misfortune', from its ultimate root, *monere*, to warn; hence 'a thing to be warned of'.

MOP. From Latin *mappa*, a 'napkin'.

MORGANATIC. From Old High German, '*morgangeba*',—a 'morning gift' from husband to wife, made the morning after the wedding ceremony. The present sense of 'morganatic wife' is an allusion to the fact that her only claim upon the man, or his possessions is for the 'morganatic' gift.

MORRIS. A type of dance, is from '*morys*', a variant of Moorish.

MOSQUITO. Diminutive of the Spanish word '*musca*', a fly.

MUCILAGE. From same Latin root as '*mucus*'.

MULATTO. From Spanish *mulatto*, a young mule—of a tawny color.

MULLIGATAWNY. Literally 'pepper-water' from Tamil '*milagutannir*'.

MUNCH. Probably imitative.

MUSCLE. From Latin '*musculus*', the diminutive of '*mus*', a mouse. The word was probably used because of the shape of many muscles.

MUSEUM. From Greek '*mouseion*', literally 'house of the Muses'.

MUSHROOM. Probably from French mousse, moss, because this type of fungus thrives in the damp, dark spots where moss is usually found.

MUSLIN. Cotton fabric probably first made at Mussolo, a town in Mesopotamia.

MUSTARD. A condiment, formerly known as sinapis. The word is Old French from Roman 'mustum', a form of the word for 'new'. An anecdotal, but probably false, explanation of the origin of the word has been offered in the fact that this condiment was first sold at Dijon in France and that the jars in which it was packed were marked with the city's motto, 'Moult me tarde', which in 15th Century French meant, 'I am very impatient'. The word mustard is said to have come from a condensation of this motto.

MUTTER. Probably imitative.

MUTUAL. From Latin 'mutuus', borrowed. This word has been said to be a combination of 'meum', mine, and 'tuum', thine, which furnishes an adequate explanation of the present meaning of the word.

MYOPE. Literally 'shut eye', from the Greek words 'muo and 'aps'.

MYSTERY. The sense of secrecy which this word implies is explained by its relation to the root-word 'musterion', literally 'to close the lips or eyes'.

NAINSOOK. A fine cotton fabric, and, from the origin of the word, apparently one of beauty;—literally ‘pleasure to the eye’ from Hindustani ‘nain’, eye, and ‘sukh’, pleasure.

NAIVE. The meaning of this word, like ‘heathen’, ‘boor’ and ‘barbarian’, is a comment of the stranger or traveller upon the provincials he is visiting. The word means, literally ‘native’, from Latin, ‘nativus’.

NAMBY-PAMBY. Formed from the name of Ambrose Phillips, a pastoral writer who died in 1749.

NANKEEN. Kind of cotton cloth, named for the City of Nanking, China.

NAPKIN. Literally, a little cloth, from the French ‘nappe’, meaning ‘cloth’.

NARCISSUS. Perhaps from Greek ‘narkē’, meaning ‘numbness’, with reference to the narcotic effect of the plant. ‘Narcotic’ has its origin in the same root-word.

NASTURTIIUM. Because of its pungent odor this word has its root in the Latin ‘nasus’, nose, and ‘torquere’, to give pain.

NAUSEA. This word and ‘nautical’, with good reason, have their root in the Greek word ‘naus’, a ship.

NEAPOLITAN. Literally 'new city' from the Greek words, 'neos' and 'polis'.

NEGLECT. Literally 'not picked up'. The second syllable is from Latin, *legere*, to pick up.

NEIGH. An imitative word.

NEIGHBOR. From Old English 'neah' and 'gebur', meaning 'near-by dweller or farmer'. The component parts of this word are now known as 'nigh' and 'boor', the latter of which having taken on the meaning of 'peasant' or 'ill-bred fellow', is doubtless an instance of a reflection of the opinion of the city-dweller of his country neighbors.

NEON. Literally, new, from the Greek word 'neos'.

NEPOTISM. The root of this word is the Italian word 'nepote', nephew.

NEWT. This word is really 'ewt'; 'an ewt' became 'a newt', just as 'nickname' was formed from 'an eke name'. Eke is an obsolete word meaning 'also'. Its counterpart in German is 'auch'.

NICKEL. Probably a diminutive of Nicholas, which was used as the name of a goblin, and the metal so called because the miners who discovered it were disappointed in learning that it contained no copper.

NICOTINE. Named for Francis Nicot who, in the 16th Century, was the French Ambassador to

Portugal, from which country he introduced tobacco into France.

NINNY. Perhaps a shortened form of the word 'innocent', in the sense of inexperienced.

NOBLE. The development of this word is a tribute to knowledge. Its root is Latin 'noscere', to know.

NOISOME. The first syllable of this word is merely a contraction of 'annoy'.

NOON. From the Latin 'nona hora', literally, ninth hour. It was originally three o'clock in the afternoon, the day being measured from six in the morning.

NOSTRUM. A remedy prepared by the person who recommends it—the word being the neuter form of the Latin word meaning 'our', hence 'our own remedy'.

NOTARY. Literally, 'secretary', from the Latin 'notarius'.

NOZZLE. A variant form of the word 'nose'.

NUISANCE. Literally, 'something that hurts' from the Latin 'nocere', to hurt, which explains the attitude of the law toward nuisances.

NUTMEG. From Latin 'nux muscata',—literally musky nut. From 'muscata' also comes the word 'muscatel'.

OBELISK. From Greek 'obeliskos', a small spit upon which meat was baked.

OBESE. From 'ob' and 'esus', a form of the verb 'edere'—meaning 'having eaten'.

OBSIDIAN. A kind of vitreous lava, was perhaps so called because of a mistake in Holland's translation of Pliny, Bk. 36, chap. 26 where he speaks of certain kinds of glass as 'obsidiana', whereas the correct translation is 'obsiana'. In this same passage Holland says that the stones which Obsius found in Ethiopia were found by Obsidius.

OCCIDENT. A Latin word meaning 'setting', used now with reference to the setting sun—or the west.

ODD. Part of an Old Norse expression 'odda mathr', the 'odd' man, who casts the deciding vote.

OFFAL. Literally, 'that which falls off'.

OHM. Unit of electrical resistance, named after the German physicist, G. S. Ohm.

OMELETTE. From the French word 'alem-ette', a variant of 'alemelle', meaning 'a thin plate'.

OMNIBUS. A Latin word meaning 'for all'.

ONION. French 'oignon', from a Latin root, meaning 'a large pearl', doubtless used because of its color.

ONLY. Literally 'one-like'.

ONYX. So called because of its likeness to the human finger-nail. From Greek 'onux', nail.

OOF. The slang word meaning money is from the Yiddish corruption, oof-tish, of the German expression 'auf dem Tische'—on the table—that which is laid on the table in payment of a debt.

OPERA. An Italian word meaning 'work'.

OPPORTUNE. Literally 'at the port, or harbor', ultimately from Latin 'portus', a harbor, or door.

ORANGE. This word should really be 'norange'. The initial 'n' slid away, and 'a norange' became 'an orange'. The root of the word is Persian 'naranj', which in turn is related to another Persian word 'nar', a pomegranate.

In the same manner 'a napron' became 'an apron' and 'a nadder' became 'an adder'. The opposite result is found in the expression 'an ewt', which became 'a newt' and 'an eke-name' became a 'nickname'.

ORANG-OUTANG. Malayan for 'man of the woods'.

ORATORIO. Italian word originally used of the musical services at the oratory of St. Philip Neri.

ORCHESTRA. From Greek 'orkheomai', to dance. The word first referred to the semi circular space in front of the Greek stage used by the dancers, later the space occupied by the musicians,

and still later the body of musicians furnishing music in the theater.

ORGAN. From Greek 'organon' tool, based upon another Greek word 'erg' meaning 'work'.

ORPHAN. Literally 'bereaved', without reference to the person or thing that has been taken.

OSTRICH. A combination of Latin words meaning 'bird' and 'sparrow'—'avis struthis'.

OTTOMAN. Cushioned sofa of the type used in Turkey; this word, used also in the expression 'Ottoman Empire', is derived from the name of Othman I, an early ruler of the Turks.

OUIJA. Literally 'yes-yes', from the French 'oui' and the German 'ja'.

OUNCE. From Latin, uncia, 'twelfth of pound or foot'. The English form 'ounce' is $\frac{1}{12}$ of a pound in Troy weight, and the form 'inch', $\frac{1}{12}$ of a foot.

OUTLANDISH. The sort of conduct which characterizes a foreigner. In the development of this word we have been as immodest as the Greeks, whose word for 'foreigner' was originally 'barbarian'.

OUTRAGE. From Latin 'ultra', meaning 'beyond', hence, 'beyond or outside of' law or morality.

OVAL. From Latin 'ovum', egg; hence, egg-shaped.

PAGAN. Like 'heathen', 'barbarian' and 'naïve', this word is a reflection of the attitude of city dwellers toward the 'unenlightened' opinions of people living in another district or country. 'Pagus' is the Latin word for 'country'.

PAIL. Perhaps from Latin 'patella', a small dish, or pan. On account of its shape the knee cap has been given the name 'patella'.

PAIN. Literally, 'penalty', from the Latin 'poena'.

PAJAMAS. Persian 'pae jamah' literally 'leg clothing'.

PALACE. The elaborate house of Augustus Caesar was built upon the Palatium Hill in Rome. The house itself later was called the Palatium and the word palace has since come to mean the official residence of any sovereign.

PALAUER. This word and 'parable', have their roots in the Greek 'para', beside and 'bole', to throw; hence the meaning of 'placing side by side', as in speech or story. The word palaver was first used in English in 1735, with reference to a talk or meeting between English traders and natives of the African Gold Coast in which a claim for damages was discussed. The immediate antecedent of this word is Portuguese, 'palavra'.

PALL-MALL. An ancient game in which a ball (Italian palla) was driven by a mallet (Latin, mal-

leus) through a ring suspended in an alley. The well known street in London, called Pall-Mall, developed from such an alley. An alley or back street, was formerly said to be used by the 'paltry', or worthless people. The word 'paltry' is from an old word 'palt', meaning rubbish.

PALMLEAF. Takes its name from its resemblance to the palm of the hand with fingers spread.

PAMPHLET. Named for a Latin amatory poem, known familiarly in the twelfth century as 'pamphilet'. The full name of the poem was 'Pamphilus seu de Amore'.

PANDEMONIUM. A combination of the Greek 'pan', meaning 'all' and the word 'daimon', demon. Milton in "Paradise Lost" represented Pandemonium as the capital of Hell.

PANEGYRIC. A combination of 'pan' and 'eguris', the latter of which was Greek for 'assembly'; hence originally the usual type of speech made before an audience—laudatory. Criticism was then, as now, more commonly reserved for private discourse.

PANDER. Named after Pandare, a character in Chaucer and Boccaccio.

PANE. From Latin 'pannus', a piece of cloth. 'Panel' is from the same root.

PANIC. From the Greek god 'Pan', whose presence, or suspected presence, struck terror in the ancient Greeks. Any unexplained stampede or alarm was attributed to this god, and the effect of his mischief was called a panic.

PANSY. From the French word 'pensee', thought.

PANTALOON. From Pantalone, a Venetian clown in an Italian comedy who appeared in pantaloons. The clown's name was probably taken from the Venetian saint San Pantaleone.

PANTRY. Literally 'place for bread', from Latin panis, bread. See company and companion. The 'companion-ladder' on a ship, is the result of confusion with the Dutch word 'kampanje', which means 'cabin', so that such a ladder is really a 'cabin-ladder'. The same explanation may be applied to the word 'companion-way'.

PAPA. An imitative word. Also Italian for Pope.

PARADE. From Latin 'parare', to prepare. A military parade is, therefore, an evidence of preparedness for war. From the same root is the word 'pare', which is used with reference to making food ready for eating.

PARAFFIN. This word takes its name from its quality of having little affinity for other objects, from Latin 'parum', little, and 'affinis', affinity.

PARAPHERNALIA. Originally, the small objects of personal property which a bride brought with her at marriage and which the law permitted her to treat as her own; her other property belonged, in law, to her husband. The root is Greek 'pherne', dower.

PARASITE. Literally, 'one eating beside' another, from the Greek 'parasitos'—'para', beside, and 'sitos', food. Originally 'parasites' were those who were guests at the tables of the wealthy, because of their quality of being good 'company'.

PARCEL. The root of this word is Latin, *particella*, meaning particle.

PARCHMENT. From Latin 'pergamena', named for Pergamum, a city in Asia Minor.

PAREGORIC. Literally 'soothing' from the root 'agoros', meaning 'speaking';—the allusion is to a sometimes forgotten purpose of speech.

PARIAH. Literally a 'drummer'. In India, on certain festival days, men of the lower classes were employed to beat the drums for the entertainment of the higher castes. This particular occupation later gave the name to the whole body of lower class people in Southern India. 'Parai', is Tamil for 'drum.'

PARISH. Literally 'beyond the dwelling'—or the district surrounding a house or church. Greek 'para', beyond, and 'oikos', dwelling.

PARLIAMENT. Literally, 'speaking', from Latin 'parlare', to talk. Parole, parlance and parlor, are from the same root.

PAROLE. A part of the French expression 'parole d'honneur', meaning a promise made upon one's honour.

PARSE. A form of the Latin word 'part' as it appeared in the question 'Quae pars orationis', what part of speech?

PARSLEY. Literally 'rock celery', probably with reference to its growth in stony soil. A like reference is found in the word 'wallflower'. Parsley is from 'petra', rock and 'selinon', celery, or, also, parsley.

PARSNIP. There seems to be no other connection than the shape of the root of this plant, to its original, pastinum, Latin, meaning, a digging fork.

PARSON. Merely another form of the word 'person'.

PARTAKE. The verb is a back-formation of the substantive 'partaker', which it is quite obvious, is merely 'part-taker'.

PASSAGE. From Latin 'passus', pace and Italian 'passegio', walk.

PASSION FLOWER. So named because some persons of vivid and pious imagination saw in the flower the hammer and nails of the Crucifixion.

PASTEURIZE. Named for Louis Pasteur, French scientist.

PAVILION. From Latin 'papilio', a butterfly, and later a tent—stretched out like the wings of a butterfly.

PAWN. The original sense of this word, 'a foot soldier' is still preserved in the game of chess. The Anglo French root is 'poun'.

PEA. A false singular which arose from the mistaken notion that pease, from the Greek word, 'pisos', was a plural noun. In this way 'pease soup' came to be spelt 'pea soup'. The old nursery rhyme 'Pease porridge hot, pease porridge cold' retains the original spelling.

PEACH. Literally 'Persian apple', from Latin 'persicum malum'.

PEAL. Probably only a shortened form of 'appeal'.

PEARL. From the Latin 'pirum', means a 'little pear'.

PECULIAR. This word and 'pecuniary', have their roots in the Latin 'pecu', cattle, from which was first formed the word 'peculiaris', meaning 'of private property'—hence 'individual or special'. From the same root arose 'pecunia', money. Thus 'pecuniary' arose from the Latin word for cattle in the same manner as 'chattel' sprang from

the word 'capitale', chief property or cattle, both words having taken on their meaning in an age when practically the only property which a man could own was his herd of cattle. From 'pecu' has also come the word 'peculate'.

PEDAGOGUE. Literally 'boy leader' from the Greek words 'pais' and 'agogos'. The first pedagogues were slaves whose tasks included the taking of boys to and from school. Later these men became tutors and the name inherited by classroom teachers. From the same root is probably the word 'pedant'.

PEDIGREE. From the French 'pie de grue', literally, 'foot of a crane'. The reason for the present meaning of this word is understood when it is considered that the allusion is to a graphic presentation of a family tree, the separate toe marks of the crane's foot representing individual branches of the family.

PEDLAR. Literally 'basket carrier', from the Scottish 'ped', a basket.

PEKOE. Chinese 'pek', white, and 'ho', down, so called because the tea leaves are picked young, while the down is still on them.

PELVIS. The Latin word for a 'basin', so called because of the shape of the pelvic bones.

PENCIL. From Old French, 'pencil', a brush. This word going back to a time when painting and

writing were done with brushes, long antedates the lead pencil. The word 'pen' comes from Latin 'penna', feather, for the obvious reason that the first pens were made of goose or other like quills.

PENNY. This word indicating the size of a nail, represents the cost per hundred in English money. Hence, a five penny nail is the size which formerly sold for five pence (approximately ten cents) per hundred.

PENTHOUSE. Literally 'an appendage', from Old French 'apentis', from which root also comes 'appendage'.

PEONY. From Paian, in Greek mythology, physician to the gods. Later the name was transferred to Apollo, the god of song, and a song of victory became a 'paean'.

PEPSIN. From the Greek 'pepsis', digestion, which word is from a root word meaning 'to cook'.

PERCHERON. A horse from the district of le Perche, in France.

PERFUME. Literally 'through smoke,' with reference to its fragrance being carried through the air, as is smoke. (Latin, fumare, to smoke.)

PERNICIOUS. Literally 'through or to death'. (Latin, necis, of death.)

PERSIFLAGE. The root of this word is Latin 'sibilare', to whistle.

PERSON. It is an interesting speculation that this word may have originally meant a creature that was articulate—could make himself known or understood 'through sound'—the literal translation of the Latin 'per' and 'sonare'.

PETERSHAM. Corded ribbon named for Viscount Petersham.

PETREL. This word may have arisen from the name of St. Peter, with an allusion to his walking upon the sea.

PETUNIA. From a native South American word 'pety', meaning tobacco, the leaves of this plant resembling somewhat those of the tobacco plant.

PHAETON, from the Greek 'Phaethon', driver of the sun chariot.

PHEASANT. A bird of the river Phasis, Greek.

PHILATELY. A word coined or suggested by M. Herpin, a French stamp collector.

PHILIPPIC. From the orations of Demosthenes against King Philip of Macedon.

PHLOX. A flower of brilliant colour from a Greek word meaning 'flame'.

PIANO. From the Italian 'piano e forte', literally 'soft and strong'. This name was adopted because

the construction of the instrument permits the musician to regulate the strength of the tone produced in playing.

PIGMY. From a Greek word 'pugme' meaning the length of one's arm from the elbow to the knuckles, hence the meaning of a person no taller than the length of one's forearm.

PILLAGE. From Latin 'pillare', to strip of hair. The verb 'to peel' is a cognate form of the word.

PINCHBECK. Alloy of copper and zinc, named after C. Pinchbeck, a London watchmaker.

PING-PONG. Imitative of the sound of the ball striking the bat used in the game.

PINK. The etymology of this word is in doubt, but it has been explained that the peaked edges of its petals suggest the effect produced by a pinking shears. The difficulty with this explanation is that it is doubtful if the word had been used in needlework as early as the 16th Century when the flower was first known as a pink.

PIONEER. Literally foot soldier, from French 'pionnier'. v. pawn.

PISTOL. From the Italian word 'pistolese', a dagger made at Pistoia, Italy.

PIT. In the sense of being pitted against an opponent is a word borrowed from the cock pit, where

fowl were set down as antagonists. From the same arena have come the words 'crestfallen' and 'white-feather'. To have a tilt with someone is a survival of the tilting yard of mediaeval tournaments.

PITTANCE. The development of this word is a commentary upon the size of mediaeval gifts to religious houses—so small that the word used to describe them has taken on the meaning of 'small in amount'.

PLAGIARIST. A kidnapper, from Latin 'plagiarius'.

PLANET. Literally, 'a wanderer', from Greek 'planetes'. As the word implies, when the planets were first observed their courses had not been charted.

PLANTAIN. A plant, so called from the resemblance between the prostrate leaves of the plant and the sole of a foot, Latin 'planta', sole of foot.

PLASTER OF PARIS. Given its name because of the gypsum deposits, (from which the plaster is made) found in the Montmartre district of Paris.

PLATINUM. Diminutive form of 'plata', meaning 'silver'.

PLAUDIT. From Latin 'plaudite', meaning, 'clap your hands'. At the conclusion of a Roman play, the actors appealed to the audience with this word. See 'explode'.

PLUNDER. A German word, meaning originally bed-clothes, and later the verb meant 'to rob of bedding and other household articles', with a still later development into the meaning 'to rob', without reference to the thing stolen.

PLUNGE. This word as well as 'plumb' is from the Latin 'plumbum', lead. Lead was used at the end of a cord to determine if a line were vertical. Plunge, from 'plumbicare', is literally, 'to throw the lead', hence to fall in the same way as the lead falls.

POCKET. Literally 'little poke'. (Anglo-Norman.) Poke in this sense is preserved in the word meaning a bag or sack.

POINSETTIA. A plant named for its discoverer, J. R. Poinsett.

POISON. From Latin 'potio' (potion) a drink, took its meaning at a time when it was popular to add poison to a drink.

POLECAT. Of doubtful origin, but perhaps a cat-like animal, the enemy of fowls. 'Poule' is French for hen, and the French word has been brought into English as 'pullet'.

POLKA. A native word meaning a Polish woman. 'Polka' translated into French is 'Polonaise'.

POLTROON. A spiritless fellow who has taken his name from the Italian word 'poltro', a bed or

couch, and the verb 'poltrare', to lie abed. There may also be a connection with Old High German 'polstar', a pillow, from which the English word 'bolster' is derived.

The 17th Century French scholar de Saumaise is responsible for an interesting though utterly false explanation of this word. He traced it to the Latin 'pollice truncus', meaning 'amputated thumb', and explained such a self-inflicted injury as a method of escaping service in the Roman Army. Hence, the present meaning of 'poltroon'—a coward.

This false etymology probably gave rise to the use of 'poltroon' in falconry. A century after de Saumaise it was defined by Chambers as a bird of prey, the nails of whose hind toes had been cut off to prevent its attacking game. The mutilated falcon is therefore probably related to 'pollice truncus' through the imagination of de Saumaise.

POMEGRANATE. From Late Latin 'pomum granatum', literally, an apple having many grains or seeds.

PONGEE. The Chinese silk was apparently a 'home made' product. It is a combination of two words, 'pun' and 'chi', meaning 'own loom'. In the modern manufacture of this cloth the somewhat irregular weaving of the thread preserves the appearance of a home product.

POPLIN. A fabric named from the 'papal' town Avignon, where it was made.

PORCELAIN. Originally a type of shell, called in French 'porcelaine', from its resemblance to a hog's back. (Latin, 'porcus', hog.)

PORCH. A colonnade in Athens where the philosopher Zeno and his followers met.

POSSESS. Literally 'to sit towards', hence hold as property, from Latin 'port', towards, and 'sedere', to sit.

POSTHUMOUS. This word is in reality the Latin word 'postumus' meaning the latest born, but by confusion with the Latin word 'humus', ground, it has come to refer to an event taking place after someone's death, that is, after some one had been placed in the earth.

POT-POURRI. French meaning literally, 'rotten pot', a mixture expressed in slang as a 'mess'.

POTTER'S FIELD. Originally the field purchased by the chief priests for the burial of strangers who died in Jerusalem. The purchase was made with the thirty pieces of silver which were given to Judas for the betrayal of Jesus, and which were picked up in the temple where Judas had thrown them just before he committed suicide: Matthew xxvii, 3. The money was used for this purpose rather than have it put into the treasury of the Temple for the reason that it was considered blood-money. The burial ground was called 'Aceldama', meaning 'field of blood', and the present meaning of

the expression in English arose solely from the fact that it had been a potter's field before its conversion into a burial ground. It is possible that this particular field was chosen because of a quality of the earth at that place which hastened the decay of flesh, consuming it in as short a space as forty-eight hours. The ingredients of the clay which hastened the dissolution of bodies may have added to its value as material in the potter's hands.

POUNCE. In the expression, 'to pounce upon', is, literally, to seize in the pounces, an old word for the claws of a hawk.

PRECOCIOUS. From Latin 'prae' and 'coquere', literally, to cook early or beforehand, and was later used with reference to the early fruiting of trees, especially such as bear fruit before leaves.

PREMISES. From Latin 'praemissas', literally 'sent before', or 'the aforesaid'. It was first used in old deeds to refer to a description of property without repeating the description in full, and later came to mean the property itself.

PREPOSTEROUS. From Latin 'prae', before, and 'posterus', coming after, was first used in the sense of 'having something before which should be after'—suggestive of 'the cart before the horse'.

PRETTY. From Old English 'praett', a trick, its present meaning having, perhaps, a reference to the use of adornment to produce the effect of beauty.

PRIMROSE. From mediaeval Latin, *prima rosa*, first rose, the allusion being to its appearance in early Spring.

PRETEXT. From 'texere', the Latin root of 'textile', means literally, 'to weave before',—hence to use as a screen in order to hide the truth.

PREVARICATE. Literally, 'to walk crookedly', from Latin 'varus', bent. The word 'prevaricari' was first used in its literal sense, and later figuratively, to mean a 'walking away from the truth'.

PRIVILEGE. The laws enacted by a legislature may be of two kinds, private and public. A private law is passed for the benefit of a particular person, and in Latin was a 'privus lex', or privilege.

PROBLEM. From Greek 'pro', before, and 'ballo', throw; literally, something 'thrown before' 'another for solution.

PROCRASTINATE. From Latin 'pro', before, and 'crastinus' of tomorrow; the original meaning of this combination was 'to move something forward to tomorrow', and later took on the sense of avoiding a task today.

PROFANE. From 'pro' and Latin 'fanus', literally, 'before the temple', hence, not included in the rites conducted within the building given over to religious services. In the case of 'profanity', there

is literally a doing outside the temple of something that should be confined within its walls, or more generally, the vulgar use of words intended to be confined to religious rites.

PROMENADE. The sense of this word has mellowed with age. Of Late Latin origin based upon 'minare', to threaten, it first meant 'to drive', as, 'to drive beasts'; in French, its next step was merely 'to take for a walk'—as to exercise a pet, and first in English it took on its present, more dignified, meaning.

PROMULGATE. This word has a basic meaning of 'to put before the people', from Latin 'pro', before, and 'vulgus', the people. See 'vulgar'.

PROPAGANDA. Of ecclesiastical origin, comes from the Latin 'congregatio de propaganda fide', meaning a 'group for propagating the faith'.

PROPRIETY. From the French 'propriete', meaning property. In earlier English usage the sense was that of 'ownership' or 'peculiarity'.

PSALM. From the Greek word 'psallo', twang, and later 'to play or thumb a stringed instrument'. Still later the verb 'psallein' meant to sing to a harp, and a further development was 'psalmos', a song sung to a harp.

PTOMAINÉ. From the Greek root 'ptoma', a corpse.

PULLMAN. Railway car designed by George M. Pullman.

PULPIT. From Latin *pulpitum*, a scaffold or platform.

PUMPKIN. From the Greek 'pepon', literally, a large melon.

PUNCH. From Hindustani, 'panch', meaning 'five', was so called because it was originally a drink with five ingredients.

PUTTEE. From 'patti', a Hindustani word meaning 'bandage'.

PUTTY. From French 'potee', literally, 'potful'.

PYRRHIC. In the expression 'Pyrrhic victory', the word takes its name from Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, who in 281 B.C. led the Greeks in a decisive victory over the Romans at Heraclea, but with abnormally heavy losses of his own troops.

QUAKER. A member of the Society of Friends, so called because given to trembling or quaking at their religious services when rising to speak. The founder of the Society reported the name as first applied to its members by Justice Bennet in 1650 because Fox the founder had bid his followers 'to tremble at the word of the Lord'. The word was perhaps used in 1647 to refer to a sect called Quakers who did not preach until the Spirit caused them 'to swell, shiver and shake'. In England and the

United States there are religious bodies known as Shakers and another known, at least popularly as, 'Holy Rollers'.

QUARANTINE. From Latin 'quadraginta', meaning 'forty' days which was probably originally the number of days of isolation prescribed to those who were suspected of having a contagious disease.

QUARREL. This word is an instance of the effect taking the original meaning of the cause. Its root is in the Latin 'querela', a complaint.

QUART. Literally a fourth, from Latin 'quartus'.

QUEER. From German 'quer', crosswise, or 'out of place'.

QUIBBLE. Its present meaning is an interesting reflection upon the habits of lawyers. The word is from the Latin 'quibis', meaning 'to or from whom', which has survived in an English form because of its frequent use in legal documents.

QUID. A variant of 'cud'.

QUINCE. Named for Cydonia, a town in Crete, near which a certain variety of the fruit was raised.

QUINSY. A disease, the painfulness of which is perhaps indicated by the meaning of the Greek words from which it has been formed, viz., 'kunos' and 'agkho', literally, 'to throttle a dog'.

QUINTESSENCE. This word has its origin in ancient philosophy which embraced the belief that there was a fifth essence, 'quinta essentia', latent in all bodies and substances which by distillation or other process could be extracted. Its separation from the elements was one of the alchemists' pursuits—and failures.

QUISLING. This word may come to mean a traitor. It may even appear as 'quisler', and bring with it a verb to 'quisle'. This was the prediction of the London Times made in April 1940, not long after Norway was betrayed by its own people into the hands of the Germans. Said the London Times: "Major Quisling has added a new word to the English language. . . . To writers . . . the word Quisling is a gift from the gods. If they had been ordered to invent a new word for traitor . . . they could hardly have hit upon a more brilliant combination of letters. Actually it contrives to suggest something at once slippery and tortuous. Visually it has the supreme merit of beginning with a Q, which (with one august exception) has long seemed to the British mind to be a crooked, uncertain and slightly disreputable letter, suggestive of the questionable, the querulous, the quavering of quacking quagmires, and quivering quicksands, of quibbles and quarrels, of queasiness, quakery, qualms and quip.

"Major Quisling is to be congratulated, he has per-

formed the rarish feat of turning a proper name into a common one and in so doing has made sure that in a future life he will find himself in a distinguished circle. In addition to Captain Boycott, Aloysius Hansom will be there; also those two Scots, Charles Macintosh and John Loudon McAdam; and first Lord Brougham; and Fourth Earl of Sandwich; and the Great Duke of Wellington in his famous boots."

News despatches from England in November 1940, may have contributed several new words to the language. Referring to the heavy damage inflicted upon Coventry by air bombing, news reports used the words "coventrate" and "coventrize;" and in reporting the cleaning-up operation after the air attack, the word "hooverize" appeared, taken from a mechanical sweeper known as the Hoover, which is also manufactured and widely used in England.

The English city, Coventry, has contributed two much-used expressions to the language. To be "sent to Coventry" meaning "to be ostracized," is said to have arisen during the Great Rebellion, when citizens of Birmingham sent to Coventry small parties of the King's supporters whom they had captured. "Peeping Tom", the second of these phrases, is said to have originated from the curiosity of a Coventry man. In the 11th Century, Lady Godiva, in an effort to bring about a reduction of burdensome taxes imposed on citizens by her husband, answered his challenge by riding through the

streets of Coventry clad only in the strands of her long hair. A decree was issued ordering that all shutters should be closed and that none should look upon this spectacular ride. Tom, a tailor, disobeyed the official order and has since become the famous "peeper."

QUIT. Literally, 'quiet', from Latin 'quietus'.

QUIZ. The origin of this word is uncertain. It may have been given a special meaning by Daly, a Dublin theatre manager, but cannot have been coined by him, since it appeared in Madam D'Arbly's Diary nine years before Daly is believed to have formed it. Daly is said to have wagered that he could introduce a new word, with no meaning, into the language within twenty-four hours. He painted the word 'quiz' on every available space and in a few hours the people of Dublin, inquiring into its meaning, had given it a permanent place in the English language. It is, of course, possible that Daly had never seen the word before using it to win his wager.

QUORUM. A Latin word meaning 'of whom'.

QUOTA. A Latin word meaning 'how great' or 'how many'.

RABBI. From Hebrew; literally, 'my master'.

RACKET. Probably an imitative word.

RADISH. From Latin 'radex', literally, 'root'.

RADIUS. A Latin word meaning a spoke of a wheel, and now referring to the distance from the center to the circumference of a circle. The word also meant 'a ray of light', and in this sense it has been preserved in radiate, radiator and radiant.

RAG. Originally 'rogg' in Old Norse and had the meaning of a 'tuft of fur'.

RAID. The early meaning of this word is apparent from the fact that it is a Scottish form of Old English 'rad', a road. Its first variation from the primary sense of the word was, obviously, 'an attack made on a road'.

RAKE. In the sense of 'a dissolute person', this word is an abbreviation of the word 'rakehell', the meaning of which appears in a quotation from Hughes, 1677—'Should you rake Hell and Scum the Devil—they will hardly be outmatched'.

RANCH. From Spanish 'rancho', a group of persons being fed together.

RANSACK. Originally applied only to searching a house. 'Rann' is Old Norse for 'house'. In English it took on a figurative meaning and was extended to searching one's brain or conscience.

RAPACIOUS. This word and 'rapid' and 'rapture', all have their ultimate roots in the Latin verb 'rapere', to seize. The word 'rape' originally meant the act of seizing, and 'rapid' expressed the speed

with which a theft was accomplished. 'Rapture' means literally 'carried away by seizure—abducted' and later developed figuratively into the meaning 'carried away by pleasure'.

RAVE. Perhaps from Old French 'rever' to dream, the allusion being, doubtless, to the type of dream known as 'nightmare', in which word the second syllable refers to a female monster bent over and suffocating or crushing the dreamer.

REAM. From Arabian 'rizmah', a bundle.

RECALCITRANT. From Latin 'calx', heel, and meaning literally 'to kick back', or 'to kick with the heel', as do certain animals; later, figuratively, 'to kick against rules'.

RECIPE. A Latin word, imperative in form, meaning 'receive' or 'take'. In medical prescriptions it is abbreviated as Rx.

RECIPROCAL. Literally 'back and forward', from the Latin words 're' and 'pro'.

RECOIL. From Latin 're' and 'culus', literally, 'back to the buttocks', hence shrink as far back as possible, or to the posterior.

RECORD. From Latin 'recordari', to remember, hence the Anglicism, 'to learn by heart'. The root of the word is 'cor' meaning 'heart'. It would seem that the earliest sense of 'remembering' was the re-

sult of putting something figuratively, into one's heart.

RECTUM. From the Latin expression 'rectum intestum', straight or erect intestine.

REDOUND. Originally meant 'to overflow', from Latin 're' and 'unda', wave. See 'abundance'.

REEF. This word and rib are, perhaps, from the same root word, Old Norse 'rif', meaning 'rib'.

REHEARSE. Literally 'to harrow again'. See 'hearse'.

RELY. From Latin 're' and 'ligare', to bind, hence to bind together, thus assuring such strength as one may put one's trust in.

REMORSE. Literally 'to bite again', figuratively, the biting pain caused by an awakened conscience. Morsel is also from the same Latin root, morsus, a bite.

REQUIEM. A Latin word meaning 'rest'. It is the first word of one of the parts of the Mass for the Dead, and by this word alone is now meant the whole of a mass said for the repose of the souls of the dead. See 'dirge'.

RESTAURANT. A French word meaning literally, a place where one may be restored.

RESTIVE. From Old French 'rester', to remain. It is applied to a horse that is nervous or restless. Its literal meaning is exactly the opposite.

RETAIL. An Old French word meaning literally, 'a piece cut off',—the opposite of wholesale, at which articles are sold without being cut, that is, in whole pieces. A 'tailor' is literally, 'a cutter'.

REVEL. Literally 'riot', from Latin 'rebellare'. The change in meaning from riot to 'merry making' is perhaps, an allusion to the noise, and sometimes the fun that accompanies even a riot of destruction.

RHODODENDRON. From the Greek, meaning a 'rose tree'.

RHUBARB. Literally 'foreign rha, or rhubarb'. The word originated in Greece to designate a plant foreign to that country, perhaps one imported from the valley of the river Volga, which was known in ancient times as the Rha.

RICH. In early times 'riches' and 'royalty' were almost inseparable; it is therefore easy to comprehend that the Teutonic root of 'rich' may be associated with 'rex', Latin for 'king'.

RIVAL. Literally one who lives or operates 'on the same stream'—hence one who is competing for the same prize or reward. See arrive and derive.

ROAM. Of this word Prof. Skeat has said: 'There is but one possible origin for it, viz. the fa-

mous City of Rome. It was simply suggested by the Old French 'romier', which at first meant a pilgrim to Rome, and then came to be used, quite generally, in the widest sense of 'pilgrim'.

ROAR. Probably an imitative word.

ROAST. Takes its name from the apparatus by which roasting is accomplished. Its root is Old High German *rost*, a gridiron.

ROBE. By reason of the fact that in mediaeval times a cloak was a frequent object of booty, this word, in its origin, is connected with the word 'rob'.

RONTGEN RAY. Named for the discoverer. The word 'ray' has its root in the Latin 'radius'—a staff, ray or spoke. By analogy to a wheel the word 'radius' has survived as a line drawn from the center to the circumference of a circle.

ROQUEFORT. A cheese named for Roquefort in France.

ROSTER. A list or plan drawn up in the manner of the parallel lines of metal in a gridiron, or roaster. See roast.

ROTTEN ROW. The somewhat common explanation of this expression as being a corruption of the French 'Route du Roi—road of the King'—is not acceptable. There are roads so called other than the one in Hyde Park, London, which has often been travelled by Kings. The more likely origin of

Rotten Row is in the expression 'disagreeable road'. W. H. Russell in 1860 referred to the London Row as a 'dreary promenade by the banks of the unsavoury Serpentine'.

ROUE. The root of this word expresses the indignation which a rake's conduct aroused, perhaps in those nearest to him; it designates the punishment to which he should be subjected, viz., 'broken on the wheel'—a terrible but popular mediæval form of punishment or torture. (French, rouer.)

RUBBER. So called because of its use in 'rubbing' out pencil marks. The word, in this sense, has been used since 1788, and has long since supplanted the word 'caoutchouc' for which it was a substitute.

RUM. Probably first made in Barbados, where English settlers first gave it the name 'rumbullion' which is a Devonshire word meaning, a great tumult or riot.

RUM or RUMMY. Literally 'like a gypsy' from the Romany word 'rom', gypsy.

RUMINANT. An animal with two stomachs, the first of which, the rumen, is literally, the throat. The animal's habit of chewing food for a time and then depositing it in the rumen, to be brought back later for further mastication, has given birth to the metaphor implied by the present meaning of the word—viz., to ponder over, to lay aside in the mind and then call back for further thought.

RUMMAGE. From French 'arrumage'—in the sense of arranging boxes and barrels in the hold of a ship, from which source came the present reference to the type of odds and ends found in such a place.

SABBATH. Literally, 'to rest', from Hebrew 'shabath'.

SABOTAGE. A French word meaning 'bad or clumsy work', and also damage done to machinery as if through clumsiness, but actually done maliciously. The allusion is to the awkwardness of European peasants shod with sabots, or wooden shoes.

SACK. In the sense of pillage, this word is literally 'to put the spoils into a sack', a still common method of carrying away articles that have been stolen.

SACRILEGE. Literally, the collection of sacred objects through robbery. Religious worship has always been associated with articles of value—gold, silver, jewels and objects of art, attractive to the thief. The word was later extended to the meaning of any profanation. Sacrilege is from Latin 'sacri', sacred and 'legere', to collect.

SAD. Literally 'to have enough of'; from the same root as Latin 'satis', satisfied. The German word 'satt' has retained the original meaning,

whereas in English the sense is limited to having enough of things disagreeable, or of sorrow.

SADISM. Named for the Frenchman, Count de Sade.

SAGA. This word and saw, the latter in the sense of an old maxim or 'saying' are from the same Old Norse root, *segja*, to say.

SAHARA. An Arabian word, of slightly different form, meaning 'desert'.

SALAD. A cold dish of various ingredients, takes its name from 'sal', the Latin word for salt.

SALARY. Literally 'salt money'. The use of this word goes back to Roman times when salt, always much prized, was difficult to obtain, and soldiers were given a special allowance, called 'salarium'—or salt money. The importance of this commodity explains the expression, 'he is not worth his salt'. In feudal England when the Lord of the manor gave a dinner he arranged all people of importance near him at the head of the table and the salt cellars, perhaps near the middle of the table, marked the line beyond which guests of no consequence sat. Hence the expression 'he sat above (or below) the salt'. The word 'cellar' in salt-cellar is from the French word *saliere*, meaning salt-box, so that salt-cellar is literally salt-salt-box. It is thus not the same word as is used in 'wine-cellar.' Analogous to the Roman salt-money is the French

pour-boire, 'for beer'—an unnecessarily explicit direction accompanying a porter's tip.

SALIENT. This word and sally, have their roots in the Latin word, 'salire', to leap; the former having an original meaning of 'initial stage', and as a medical term was used to refer to the heart as it first appeared in an embryonic creature—this meaning having reference to the place from which a 'leap' is taken—from which a beginning is made; a sally in military language is a 'leaping upon the enemy'.

SALMON. From Latin *salmonem*, is probably related to Latin 'salire' to leap, because of the ability of this fish to ascend a stream by leaping over rapids and small water falls.

SALVER. This word is connected with the old custom of tasting or testing food before it was offered to the king, to guard against his being poisoned. Its root is the Latin word 'salvus', safe, and the 'salver', was therefore a tray upon which food was borne to the king after it had been tested and found safe. The tasting was done in the presence of the king and his guests. This practice has survived in the custom of a hostess being served first, and in the guests at her table not eating food until she has first tasted it.

SAMOYEDE. This tribe of Northern Siberians has been given its name for the same reason as the Esquimaux tribes of North America. The word

means literally, 'flesh-eater', an obvious name for those who live where there are no vegetables.

SANDWICH. Probably named for the Earl of Sandwich who is said to have first eaten meat placed between slices of bread on 24-hour hunting trips.

SANTA CLAUS. From Dutch Sint Klaas, Saint Nicholas.

SAPPHIRE. A Greek word meaning, lapis lazuli, Latin for 'stone of azure'.

SARCASM. Its effect explains its origin: from the Greek 'sarkazo', to tear the flesh, hence, a remark that cuts deeply.

SARCOPHAGUS. A Greek stone coffin, the word meaning literally, flesh eating ('sarko' and 'phagos'), from the fact that the body disintegrated after burial.

SARDINE. A fish found off Sardinia.

SARDONIC. The origin of this word is traced to the ancient belief that convulsive laughter ending in death was due to eating a certain plant from Sardinia.

SASH. From the name of the material from which it was first made—'shash', an Arabian word meaning muslin. The 'sash' which holds a glass, is derived from French, 'chassis'.

SATAN. A Hebrew word meaning 'adversary'.

SATELLITE. Latin, meaning 'guard'.

SATIN. From Latin 'seta', 'silk'.

SATIRE. Originally a composition dealing with a variety of subjects, without reference to their nature, the word itself being taken from the Latin expression 'lanx satura', a full dish, in which 'saturation' is related to the root, 'satis', enough. The reference is probably to a dish heaped with a variety of fruits—some sweet—some sour, with which latter may be associated the literature of ridicule.

SATURNALIA. In Rome, a December festival of merrymaking, with temporary release of slaves, which was the predecessor of the more modern Christmas season.

SAUCE. This word has its root in the Latin 'sal' meaning salt. An intermediate form was 'salsa', a Late Latin word meaning sauce. The masculine form of this word was 'salsus', from which is derived the word 'sausage'.

SAVAGE. Like 'heathen', 'pagan' and 'barbarian', this word is a reflection of the opinion which town dwellers held of those living away from them—in this case, in the woods—from the Latin 'silvaticus', a 'woods dweller'.

SAXOPHONE. Named for the German, Adolf Sachs, who died in 1894.

SCABIOSA. A plant, the name of which has been taken from the fact that it was helpful in treatment of the itch, or scabies.

SCAFFOLD. A combination of Latin 'ex', 'from', and Italian 'catafalco', a catafalque, perhaps from an original sense of the platform used in erecting a catafalque.

SCALAWAG. Used originally with reference to the undersized ponies of Scalloway, in Shetland.

SCAMPER. From Latin 'ex' and 'campus', had an original meaning of running 'from the field'.

SCANDAL. From Greek 'skandalon', a stumbling block, probably representing the popular or general feeling of the effect of a public affront.

SCAPE GOAT. In the Old Testament ritual of atonement, two goats were chosen upon one of which the sins of the people were laid by symbol and permitted to escape into the wild country, the other being slain as a sacrifice—or made holy, the word coming from Latin 'sacri', holy, and 'facere', to make.

SCAR. Literally, the mark left by a burn, from the Greek word 'eskhara', meaning 'hearth'.

SCARAMOUCH. From the name Scaramuccia, a famous Italian clown.

SCARLET. From Persian 'saqalat', a kind of cloth, frequently red in colour.

SCAVENGER. From French 'scavager', an inspector of imports who confiscated and threw away goods that were not fit to be received into the country. Unlike constable, steward and marshal, this word furnishes an example of a public official who was once, but is not now, a person of some consequence.

SCENE. From the Greek, 'skene', originally, a tent in which a drama was enacted, or sometimes meaning the 'stage' upon which the action takes place.

SCHEDULE. From Latin 'scheda', a papyrus strip, upon which a list or inventory was written.

SCHNAPS. A drink, from a Dutch word meaning a mouthful.

SCHOOL. From a Greek word 'skhole', which had an original meaning of 'leisure', perhaps so called because of the absence of manual labor.

SCHOONER. An arbitrary name given about 1713 by the first designer of such a ship.

SCION. Literally, 'something cut off', from Latin 'secare', to cut. Its primary modern meaning is a 'shoot' of a plant for grafting or planting.

SCOPE. From Greek 'skopos', a mark to be shot at.

SCORE. In the sense of 'twenty', probably arose from an old practice, in counting a herd of sheep or

cattle, of counting orally up to twenty and then cutting a 'score' or notch on a stick and then proceeding with the next group of twenty.

SCORN. From popular Latin *ex-cornare*, to deprive of horns, and hence to deride or disgrace.

SCOT. In the expression 'scot free', is an Old Norse word meaning 'payment' or 'contribution'.

SCOUR. From Mediaeval Latin, '*scurare*', literally to take good care of.

SCRAP. From Old Norse word '*skrap*', meaning 'scrape'. A scrap, therefore, something that has been scraped off.

SCREAM. This word has come from '*skraema*' an Old Norse word, for scare, or fright—that which causes a scream.

SCREEN. From Old High German '*skrank*', a barrier or limit, and from this meaning the word developed the sense of a partition or barrier which marked the limits of a particular place,—as the 'screen' in a cathedral, which separates the nave from the choir.

SCROFULA. Literally 'a brood sow',—a diminutive form of the Latin word '*scrofa*', a sow, so called because of the enlargement of the lymphatic glands in the disease.

SCRUPLE. Originally, in English, a weight used in the apothecaries' scale of measuring, equal to 20

grains, from the Latin 'scrupulus', a small pebble, probably used in an apothecary's scales. Hence the meaning of a very small matter which might affect one's conduct, as 'scruples' of conscience.

SEASON. Originally only one time of the year, namely, the time for sowing, from the Latin word 'serere', to sow.

SEDAN. Used in connection with 'chair', meaning a covered chair carried on two poles is named for the city of Sedan in France, or has its root in the Latin word 'sedes', seat.

SEDUM. The low growing plant, takes its name from Latin 'sedeo', to sit, because it sits on rocks and walls.

SEERSUCKER. An Indian blue and white striped linen, named from two Persian words, 'shir' and 'shakker', meaning milk and sugar. If the supposed etymology is a true one, some knowledge of the quality of Indian milk is gained.

SEIDLITZ POWDER. A substitute for the mineral water of Seidlitz, in Bohemia.

SELTZER. Water from Selters in Germany.

SEMINARY. Literally, a place or plot where seeds are planted, from Latin 'seminarium'. In modern use the word implies a place where mental seeds are planted and cultivated.

SENATE. Ultimately from Latin 'senex', old man, means literally 'a group of old men', who formed the State Council of Rome, so called, for the obvious reason that sagacity was associated with age and experience.

SENTINEL. One who beats a path, from Latin 'sente', path—indicating that in Roman times a sentinel was one who followed a beat rather than one posted upon a particular spot.

SERGE. Originally a silk material, of a kind made in China. The word from Greek 'seres', means 'Chinese'. Here is doubtless an instance of a coarser material taking the name of a finer one with which it has been used—in this case, perhaps as a silk lining for the coarser woollen material.

SEWAGE. From the same root as succulent, namely, 'succus', juice. Sewage is from a combination of 'ex' and 'succus', and meant literally, that which has been drained off.

SHABBY. Another form of the word scab.

SHAKER. A name derived from religious dances. See 'Quaker'.

SHAM. A variation of the word shame.

SHAMPOO. The imperative form of a Hindustani verb, meaning 'to knead'.

SHARE. This word and shear are variants of the same Old English root word. In the com-

bination 'plow share' there is, etymologically, a duplication of meaning. The French word for plow is 'charrue', and the French put the 'plow before the oxen' as we do the 'cart before the horse'.

SHARK. So called from the fact that it has sharp, irregular teeth, from the Greek word 'karkharos', jagged.

SHEIKH. An Arabian word meaning 'old man' or elder.

SHEKEL. From a Hebrew word 'shaqal', meaning to weigh, perhaps so called because of the fact that the value of certain coins was determined by their weight. Gold coins are still counted in England by weighing in a scales.

SHERRY. A wine named for Xeres in Spain.

SHILLELAGH. This word, sometimes spelled 'shillaly', takes its name from the town of the same name in County Wicklow, Ireland.

SHILLING. This word and 'shin' are probably from Old English words meaning 'thin slice'—one of silver, the other of bone.

SHRAPNEL. Named for the inventor, Gen. H. Shrapnel who fought in the Peninsular war.

SHREW. This word and 'shrewd' are in reality two forms of the same word, the latter being middle English 'shrewed' meaning 'cursed'.

SHRINE. Originally a box or chest in which writing materials were kept—Latin, *scrinium*. Its present meaning doubtless arose from the fact that such chests were used for housing sacred relics.

SHROUD. Literally 'garment', from the same root (Old English 'scrud') as 'shred'.

SICKLE. The pear of this name, is more properly called 'seckel', from a Dr. Seckel, of Philadelphia, Penna., who first grew this variety.

SIENNA. The color of earth found near Sienna, Italy.

SIESTA. From Latin '*sexta hora*', sixth hour, counting from six in the morning—hence noon or the hottest part of the day, when people in Southern Europe rested from their day's work.

SIGH. Probably an imitative word.

SILHOUETTE. From the name of Etienne de Silhouette, who for a short time was Controller-General of France. The reason for the present meaning has been assigned to the ridicule that the word was intended to throw upon his petty economies in Office; to the brief tenure of his office, and to the fact that Silhouette made outline portraits for the walls of his home.

SILK. From same root as *serge*, namely the Greek word '*Seres*', meaning 'Chinese'.

SILLY. From Old English 'saelig', meaning 'fortunate', may, in its transition to 'foolish' or 'weak-minded' reflect an early attitude towards those who were fortunate enough to be free of cares or responsibilities.

SIMONY. The purchase of ecclesiastical preferment, so called because of the offer made by Simon, the sorcerer, and recorded in Acts, chapter viii, verses 18 and 19, 'And when Simon saw that through laying on of the Apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, saying, "Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost" '.

SIMOON. The terror which this type of storm engendered in the Arabians is apparent from the fact that its root, 'samma' means, 'he poisoned'.

SINISTER. A Latin word meaning 'left', hence an early meaning of left-handed or awkward, arising in the same manner as dextrous, from the Latin 'dexter' meaning right. The present, most usual meaning, namely, wicked or inauspicious, arises from the fact that in the interpretation of omens, such as the flight of birds, it was considered unfavourable if an occurrence took place to the left of one.

SIRLOIN. Although the history of this word is clear, and it has come from Old French 'surloigne' meaning 'above the loin' a popular, but false explanation of the word has attributed its origin to the

knighting of a large roast beef by a King of England. The ceremony is variously attributed to Henry VIII, James I and Charles II. An article in the *New York Times* of Dec. 10, 1935, reports that it was James I who in 1611 knighted a loin of beef at Hoghton Tower near Preston, Lancashire, England, while he was the guest of James de Hoghton. At about the same time another newspaper reported that the word 'blizzard' was taken from the name of a man; another falsely reported that butterfly was derived from 'flutter by' and over the radio, that 'monkey wrench' was named for a man who lived at Springfield, Mass.

SKATE. Literally a stilt, from Old French 'echasse', which was always made of wood, and the first skates may, therefore, have been so constructed. In some parts of England they are called pattens, which word is derived from a French word *patte*, a foot, and is cognate with the word paw. When we ask a child to give us its patty, we are, however, not, literally asking for its foot. In this connection the reference is doubtless to the game of 'Patty-cake' played by children with their hands.

SKELETON. Greek, meaning 'dried up', and used originally without reference to the bony structure of an animal after death.

SKI. This word and 'skid' are probably from Old Norse 'skidh', a snow shoe.

SLAVE. A Slav or Slavonian captive, brought to Athens by the Greeks. Recent history promises further evidence of the correctness of this word origin.

SLOGAN. A Scottish word meaning a Highland war-cry.

SMOCK. The type of garment is explained by its origin in Old English 'smugan', meaning 'to creep into'.

SNAIL. Old English diminutive of 'snaca', a snake.

SNOB. This word and 'snub' are from a Danish word 'snapp', meaning 'silly'—a commentary upon the conduct embraced by these two words.

SOCK. Derived from Latin 'soccus', the soft shoe worn by a comic actor. The 'sole' of a shoe is taken from the Latin 'solum', meaning 'ground'.

SOLDIER. The name of a member of an army is taken from the fact that he received 'pay' (Latin, soldum) for his service. See salary.

SOLECISM. An offence against grammar said to have been frequently committed by the people of Soloi, in Cilicia, a town noted for its bad Greek. Another meaning of the word 'soloikos', was 'barbarous', thus furnishing an instance of a word designating the opinion of the people of one city, in this case Athens, of the inhabitants of another particu-

lar town. In this respect it differs from 'pagan' and 'heathen'.

SOLON. From the name of Solon, Athenian lawgiver.

SOPHOMORE. A combination of Greek words meaning 'wise' and 'foolish', namely 'sophos' and 'moros', from which has come 'moron'.

SORBONNE. Parisian University founded about 1250 by R. de Sorbon.

SPADE. As used on a playing-card this word is the result of a confusion between the French and Spanish patterns on the cards. The French designs for the black suits are the spearhead for the spade and the clover-leaf for the club. However in adopting the French designs we took over the Spanish words used in connection with their designs. The spade or spear-head is taken from the word spada, a sword, which appears on the Spanish card, and the mace or club is the design which corresponds to the French clover-leaf.

SPANIEL. Literally 'Spanish'.

SPECULATE. Literally, 'to observe', from Latin 'specula', a watch-tower.

SPICE. Another form of the word 'species'. The mediaeval merchants recognized four kinds or 'species' of vegetable matter that was used to add flavor

to cooking, namely, cloves, saffron, cinnamon and nutmegs. These were called spice. (Old French, *espice*.)

SPIDER. This word and 'spinster' are from Old English 'spinter', a spinner, a common occupation of an unmarried woman in the eighteenth century.

SPIGOT. Casks are often opened by a gimlet and after the desired quantity of liquid had been drained off the hole was plugged by a very small peg of wood, resembling the 'spike upon which grains of wheat grow',—which expression is the meaning of the Old French word '*espiga*', from which spigot is derived.

SPINACH. Takes its name from 'Hispania', Spain, although it is usually associated with Latin '*spina*', a thorn.

SPIRIT. From Latin *spiritus*, breath.

SPOIL. In the sense of plunder taken from an enemy in war, this word is from Latin '*spolium*', meaning, 'the skin stripped off an animal'. From the same root is 'spoliation'.

SPRUCE. A kind of fir tree, and in the sense of being smart and trim in appearance, comes from the word Prussia. In the second sense the word is used with reference to Prussian leather, and not to the country itself.

SPUD. A colloquial name for 'potato', because of the use of a small spade known as a 'spud', in digging potatoes.

SQUIRREL. Because of its thick bushy tail, the origin of this word has been explained as a combination of Greek 'skia', shadow and 'oura', tail.

STADIUM. A measure of length used in Athens to lay out the course for a foot race. The distance was about 202 yards.

STALLION. So called because kept in a stall, and not permitted to run at pasture with other horses.

STARVE. From Old English 'steorfan', die. The modern German word for 'to die' is 'sterben'.

STEELYARD. A kind of balance first used in the Steelyard, the London meeting place of German merchants.

STEEPLE. Another form of the word 'steep', with reference to the angle of its sides.

STENTORIAN. From the name of Stentor, a herald in the Trojan war, who was known for the strength of his voice.

STEPMOTHER. The first syllable has its origin in Old English 'steop', bereaved or orphaned, but in its present use is entirely misplaced. It is not the stepmother who is suffering a bereavement, but

rather the children who have undergone a loss. The word should apply only to stepchildren, since they alone are the orphaned or bereaved ones.

STERLING. Probably used with reference to English coins because on certain old Norman coins a star was minted, hence the word was probably first 'starling', and later 'sterling'.

STEWARD. Literally 'guardian of the sty', from Old English 'stigweard'. From this original meaning the word was used to designate the household servant having charge of all the cattle on the estate, and later, a servant who assumed the entire management of the property.

STOCKING. 'Stock' once referred to a garment which covered the abdomen and legs, and knee breeches were then, sometimes, referred to as 'upper stocks', while the nether-stocks covered the lower legs, and came to be known as 'stockings'.

STOGIE. This word is merely a contraction of 'conestoga', the name of a wagon made at Conestoga, Pa., which in turn, had been named for the Conestoga Indians. It is said that the drivers of these wagons who usually hauled lumber over the Pennsylvania and West Virginia roads drove their horses with one hand and with the other rolled the somewhat rough cigars which came to be known as stogies. These cigars are still manufactured in Pittsburgh and Wheeling which were, in the days

of the Conestoga wagons, terminal points in the lumbering operations.

STOIC. From Greek 'stoa', porch. The word has taken its present meaning from the fact that the Athenian philosopher, Zeno, who advocated self-control, met with his followers in the Stoa Poecile, the Painted Porch at Athens. See Academy.

STOMACH. From Greek 'stomakhos', a diminutive form of 'stoma', meaning mouth.

STRATEGY. Ultimately from the Greek word 'strategos', an army leader. The word was, however, most frequently used to refer to one of the ten general officers elected annually at Athens to command the army and navy and conduct the war department.

STRAWBERRY. Takes its name from the fact that it has runners which cause the plant to cover a great deal of ground. 'Straw' and 'strew' derive from Old English 'Streaw', meaning 'straw'. The verb 'strew' must therefore have reference to the manner in which straw is scattered.

SUBLIME. Perhaps from Latin 'sub' and 'limen', literally reaching 'up to the lintel', or 'to the top of the door'.

SUBTLE. From Latin 'sub' and 'tela', a web, with an original significance of 'finely woven', and the figurative sense of well designed, or thought out.

SUEDE. French meaning Swede.

SULLEN. Ultimately from Latin 'solus', alone, hence the literal meaning, 'lonely', or 'unsociable',—the effect of being alone.

SULTANA. The feminine form of the word 'sultan'. Originally used as an adjective in the expression 'sultana raisin' in reference to a sweet raisin made from a yellow grape grown in Smyrna, and perhaps popular with Turkish women of 'quality'.

SUPERCILIOUS. From Latin 'superciliosus', literally 'raised eyebrow', a movement which is so usual a concomitant of haughtiness, that it has come to mean the very thing which it accompanies.

SURPLICE. A combination of the French words 'sur' and 'pellis', meaning 'over fur'—a garment first worn in unheated churches in the middle ages.

SURREY. Used in the United States to indicate a four wheeled carriage, takes its name from the English surrey cart, which was first popular in County Surrey.

SURROUND. Literally, to cover over by a wave, from Latin 'sur' and 'unda', a wave.

SWARD. An Old English word meaning 'skin', and now referring only to a close cropped plot of grass.

SWASTIKA. A Sanskrit word meaning literally, 'fortunate'. It is now the emblem of the Nazi or Hitler party in Germany.

SYCOPHANT. From two Greek words 'sukon', fig and 'phaino', show,—a person who informed against another who was either illegally exporting figs or plundering the sacred fig trees, hence one who gained public or official favor in this way. By this development the word has taken on its present meaning of a flatterer.

SYMPOSIUM. A Greek word meaning 'a drinking together', originally an after-dinner party with drinking, music, dancing and conversation. The word may have taken on its more dignified current meaning from the conversation reported in Plato's dialogue, 'The Symposium'.

SYNCOPATE. From Latin 'syncopare', to swoon, a meaning made clear by certain modern dances.

SYPHILIS. An infectious disease named for Syphilus, a character in a sixteenth century Latin poem on the subject of the disease.

SYRUP. From 'sharab', an Arabian word meaning 'beverage'. An allied word is 'sherbert'.

TADPOLE. This word and its earlier form 'tadpoll', are literally, 'toad head', so called because the body of the young toad and frog appears to consist only of a large head, to which is attached a small tail.

TALLY. From the same root as tailor, namely, French 'tailler', to cut. The reference in the word

'tally' is to the record of a count which was made by mediaeval merchants by cutting notches in two sticks of wood, one of which was kept by the buyer and the other by the seller. When payment was later made the two sticks were compared and from this agreement of the number of notches arose the sense that the records 'tallied'. (See 'score'.) The German word Zahl, 'number' and zählen, to count, seem to have some relation to the English 'tell' and 'tally', as evidenced by the expression 'all told'—all counted, probably by the early method of tallying. The method of comparing tallies had its counterpart in the indenture, a legal document made in two parts and the top of each cut irregularly, or indented by a knife. Proof that the two parts belonged together was made by comparing the indentations.

TAMMANY. An Indian Chief with whom William Penn, for whom the State of Pennsylvania was named, bargained for the acquisition of land.

TAN. From the German name of the tree whose bark was first used to convert raw hide into leather—the Tannenbaum, or fir-tree.

TANDEM. A Latin word meaning 'at length', used punningly with reference to the 'drawn out' method of hitching one horse behind another.

TANGERINE. A small flattened orange raised in Tangiers.

TANK. As an instrument of modern warfare the tank was so called because when first designed, the English War Office announced that its purpose was to transport water.

TANTALIZE. From Tantalos, a character in Greek mythology, who was condemned to stand in a pool of water, which receded whenever he attempted to slake his thirst. Over his head hung clusters of fruit which escaped the grasp of his hands whenever he attempted to satisfy his hunger.

TAPIOCA. A Portuguese word meaning literally 'dregs squeezed out'. Tapioca is made from the juice pressed out of the roots of the cassava plant.

TAPIS. The French expression 'sur le tapis', has been carried into English in the expression 'on the carpet', meaning 'to be up for discussion'. The reference is to the carpet-like covering of a council table, upon which were placed the papers concerning any matters which were to be discussed at a particular sitting of the council.

TARANTULA. From Italian 'tarantola', a large spider whose bite was thought to cause tarantism, which is a dancing mania originating in southern Italy among those who thought they had been bitten by the spider. From this word also arises 'tarantella'—the music for a rapid whirling dance which was once thought to be a cure for the bite of the tarantula.

TARIFF. From 'tariffe', an old French word meaning arithmetic, and which is now used to calculate by an arithmetical process the amount exacted as a toll upon imports, or in more general use—the cost of an article.

TARPAULIN. Literally, a tar cloak, from 'tar' and Latin 'pallium', a cloak. It is from the use of this type of waterproof cloth on ships that has come the colloquialism, 'tar', meaning a sailor.

TATTOO. In the sense of the beat of drums recalling soldiers to their barracks, this word, in two syllables, tells a full chapter on the subject of the habits of European soldiers of an earlier day. From a Dutch word 'taptoe', it originally meant 'to turn the tap to' or to 'close the tap' in a bar room. It would appear that it was from the tap room of the neighbouring inn that the soldiers were recalled at night, and that the drums sounded a signal that drinking should cease.

TAWDRY. Originally used only in the expression 'tawdry lace' with reference to the fact that St. Audrey, patron saint of Ely, in England, died of a tumor in her throat, thought by the superstitious of the time to have been caused by her wearing elaborate neck pieces made of lace. The word then came to refer to the laces and other trivial articles of adornment sold at the Fair of St. Audrey, held annually in some parts of England on October 17, the Saint's day.

TAXICAB. A shortened form of 'taximeter-cabriolet', literally, a 'tax measuring carriage'. See 'cabriolet'.

TEAM. Old English, meaning 'family'.

TEASE. The modern form of an earlier word 'toose', from Old English 'taesan' meaning to pull or pluck.

TED. From Icelandic 'tethja', originally meant 'to spread manure' and later 'to spread hay'—its present meaning.

TEETOTUM. So called from the fact that this top used in gaming had one side marked T, signifying Latin totum, hence T, totum. He who spun the top so that the T came up took all the stake. The expression 'teetotaller', may have had some connection with this game.

TENDERLOIN. When applied to a district, this word was probably originally used with reference to the territory near certain sections of Broadway, New York, where policemen were able to work with great profit to themselves,—the 'juiciest' section.

TENNIS. From the French imperative form 'tenez', hold, which was called out by the player as he served the ball.

TENT. So called from the fact that it is made of a 'stretched' piece of cloth, from Old French 'tendre', to stretch.

TERRIER. A dog so called because of his digging propensity, from Latin 'terra', earth.

TERSE. From the Latin 'tergere', to polish.

TEST. From Latin 'testum', in Roman times, an earthen pot much used for the trying or testing of metals.

TETANUS. From Greek 'teino', stretch, with reference to the muscular spasms which accompany the disease.

THERAPEUTIC. Literally, a servant, or nurse, from Greek 'thera' and 'peuo', to wait upon or cure.

THIMBLE. Literally is 'little thumb'.

THREAD. This word and 'throw' are forms of the same word, as are 'throttle' and 'throat'.

THREAT. An Old English word which originally meant a 'crowd', and later, perhaps, the menace of physical harm which frequently accompanies the gathering of a crowd or mob.

THISTLE. An obvious development from the Old Teutonic root 'thins', to tear.

THRESHOLD. Allied with the word 'thresh', to beat out grain or 'trample upon' it, the present meaning arising, perhaps, from the fact that threshing usually was carried on near the door so that the wind would carry away the chaff.

THRILL. From middle English 'thrillen', to pierce, hence the present sense of 'to penetrate with emotion'.

THUG. A member of an association of professional robbers and murderers in India who strangled their victims. The members were called Thugs, and upon the occasion of the visit of the Prince of Wales to India in 1897 one of the members of this outlaw order showed him how victims were strangled.

THUMP. An imitative word.

THYROID. The cartilage in the throat is so called because its shape resembles that of a shield, from Greek, 'thureos', a shield.

TICKET. From French 'etiquette'.

TIGER. From an Old Persian word 'tigra', meaning 'something sharp', or 'an arrow'. The swiftness of the animal accounts for the adoption of the name.

TIMOTHY. A hay or grass introduced into England by Timothy Hanson, and first cultivated by him in the American colonies.

TINKER. Probably so called because of the 'tinkling' sound made by him in mending pans and kettles. 'Tinkle' is an imitative word.

TINKER'S DAM. This harmless expression wrongly used by many who hesitate to use an un-

accompanied 'damn', is merely a temporary dam of clay, or some other pliable substance used by a tinsmith, a tinker, or other metal worker to hold solder in place until it had hardened.

TIT FOR TAT. Probably from French 'tant pour tant',—'so much for so much', hence, 'blow for blow'.

TOAST. This word, in the sense of 'to drink a toast', has its origin in an early custom of dropping small pieces of toasted bread, to which had been added spices, into wine or ale for the purpose of adding flavor to the drink. The word came to be used in a figurative sense upon the assumption that the mention of the name of a beautiful woman added zest to the drink in the same way as did a piece of spiced toast.

TOBACCO. A Spanish word which first meant the tube through which the natives smoked the dried leaves which later were called tobacco.

TOG. A slang form of the word toga, of Roman origin.

TOILS. In the expression 'to be in the toils', is from French 'toiles', and Latin 'tela', meaning the webs or nets within which wild fowl were enclosed. 'Toiles' is the root of toilet, a process of cleansing in which cloths play an important part.

TOKAY. A wine made at Tokay, in Hungary.

TOM AND JERRY. The names of two boisterous characters in Egan's 'Life in London' first published in 1821.

TOMATO. A Spanish word. The fruit of the plant was, in the eighteenth century called the love-apple, because of its supposed aphrodisiac qualities.

TON. A variant of the word tun, a large cask. The word tonneau means literally, a tun.

TONSIL. So called because of its shape, from the Latin, 'tonsilla', a sharp stake.

TONTINE. A type of insurance originated by Lorenzo Tonti, a seventeenth century Italian merchant.

TOPER. Originally one who, in drinking, used the expression 'tope', from Old French, having approximately the meaning, 'I pledge you'.

TORCH. From the Latin 'torquere', to twist; from the early use of a twisted cloth used as a wick and lighted. From the same root is the word tart, a pastry of uneven shape, and, referring to a woman—one of twisted, or 'distorted' morals. Originally 'torture' referred to the pain inflicted by twisting as upon the rack.

TORMENT. From Latin 'tormentum' (root, 'torquere', to twist), an instrument of warfare from which projectiles were hurled by the twisting or turning of a crank. From the same root are 'contortion', 'distort', 'retort' and 'extort'.

TORNADO. Taken from the Spanish 'tronada', a thunderstorm, or from the Spanish 'tornada', which originally meant 'return from a journey'.

TORPEDO. From a Latin root, 'torpere', to be numb. The word was probably first used in connection with a submarine mine for the destruction of battleships, by Robert Fulton, the inventor. The word was doubtless chosen by him because the machine was designed to 'benumb' or destroy its target.

TORRENT. Literally a 'boiling stream', from Latin 'torrentem', which in turn is from the root, 'torrere', to burn. From the same root has arisen the word 'torrid'.

TORY. A translation of an old Irish word meaning 'pursuer'. In the 17th century it was used to describe dispossessed Irish tenants, who lived as outlaws, pursuing and plundering the English settlers. It was first used as a proper noun in the year 1679, when it came into vogue as a nickname for those who opposed the exclusion of the Catholic Duke of York from the succession to the Crown.

TOUCHY. This word has no connection with the word 'touch', but is a corruption of 'techy', 'peevish' or 'irritable', from Middle English, 'tecche'.

TOWN. In Old English, first, a farm yard, and later a hedge or fence, a form of which is preserved in German as 'Zaun'. The present meaning arose

from the practice of peasants grouping their residences together for the purpose of protection against wild animals and as a safeguard against the attacks of bands of robbers. The name came to be associated with such groups of buildings because they were first surrounded by a fence and later by a wall. In many parts of Europe, few of the peasants live upon the land which they cultivate. They are town dwellers who walk to their fields each day, leaving their families in more protected places than they would be in if living in isolated farm houses.

TOXIC. In Greek there are the two closely associated words, 'toxikon', poison and 'toxa', bow and arrows. The connection arises out of the old practice, in warfare, of dipping arrows in poison.

TRADE. This word, in the sense of one's employment, is cognate with the word 'tread' and means, literally, 'path'; hence, figuratively the path that one takes in one's business or employment.

TRAGEDY. From Greek 'tragodia', literally 'goat-song', an etymology that is fairly well authenticated, yet unexplained. Imagination, however, can scarcely conjure up a more sorrowful sight or sound than that of a goat singing. A likely explanation of this word is that the early actors frequently wore goat's skins.

TRAM. A Norwegian word meaning 'a wooden doorstep', or a log. The word tramway was prob-

ably first used to refer to a road of logs laid across soft or rough ground, and later to the vehicle using rails laid upon logs or ties.

TRIBE. This word has the same ultimate root as 'three' and 'treble' and was first used to apply to three divisions of the early Roman people, namely, the Latin, Sabine and Etruscan elements.

TRINKET. Middle English, meaning 'knife', probably originally a toy knife worn on the person as an article of adornment. 'Toy' is a word which originally meant 'thing', or 'trash'. A cognate form is preserved in German 'zeug', a thing.

TRIVIAL. From Latin 'tri', three and 'via', way, from which was formed 'trivium', a place where three roads meet—a cross roads. The figurative sense of 'commonplace' has arisen from the idea that objects are more common at the place where three highways meet than upon any of the roads themselves.

TROPHY. From Greek 'trope', a turn, with particular reference to the place where the enemy turned in flight, hence the place where battle flags and arms would be dropped to make retreat easier and more rapid, or, also the place where it would be most simple to wrest equipment from the enemy. From this meaning it was an easy transition to the present meaning of 'trophy'. From the same root is the word 'tropic', associated with the point above

which the sun appears to be when it 'turns' its course after reaching its greatest declination in summer and winter.

TROUBLE. From Latin 'turbula', diminutive of the word 'turba', a crowd, from which root has come also the word 'turbulent'. The association of ideas between a 'crowd' and 'trouble' is a close one in the history of any race where wrongs were almost always righted by violence.

TROUGH. A derivative of Old English 'trog', meaning tree.

TROUSERS. Originally a loose-fitting garment covering the loins and legs and were worn over breeches and stockings for warmth and as a protection against the dirt of travel.

TROUSSEAU. This word has its origin in an Old French word meaning 'bundles'. v. paraphernalia.

TROY. System of weights, probably named for the town of Troyes in France.

TRUMP. From French 'triomphe', Triumph, a game of cards; now used in card games in which one suit is designated as trump and is given a value which allows it to 'triumph' over the other suits.

TUBEROSE. This word has no connection with a rose; the word is from the Latin adjective, 'tuberosus', tuberous.

TULIP. A plant with brilliant flowers, named ultimately from the bright colors of Turkish turbans—from Turkish 'tulbend', a turban.

TULLE. A silk net probably first made in the city of Tulle, in France.

TUNGSTEN. Literally, heavy stone, from the Swedish words 'tung' and 'sten'.

TUNIC. From Latin, tunica. DeQuincey, in a footnote to 'toilette of a Hebrew Lady' says that the accepted etymology of 'tunica' is the Greek word 'Chiton' through a simple inversion of the syllables: "that is, (1) Chi-ton; then (2) Ton-chi. But, if so, (3) why not Ton-cha; and (4) why not Tun-cha; as also (5) why not Tun-i-ca?— Q. E. D. Such, I believe, is the received derivation."

TURKEY. A large domestic bird so named because it was supposed to have come from Turkey. In certain European countries the turkey has been called by other names, but always indicating that it is of foreign origin. In Germany, it is called an Indian or Welsh fowl, in Holland a Turkish or Calicut bird; in Spain and Italy, the origin is considered to be Indian and in France, an African or Indian fowl. The present French word for turkey is 'dindon', from 'd'Inde', of India.

TURNIP. A turned or rounded nip. The second syllable is from Latin 'napus' and Old English 'naep'.

ULTRAMARINE. Latin meaning 'beyond the sea'. A pigment manufactured from lapis lazuli and so called because the stone was imported from points 'beyond the sea'.

UMBER. A dark brown pigment, the name of which is derived from Latin 'umbra', meaning 'shade'. Umbrella is from the same root.

UMPIRE. From Middle English 'nompere', meaning 'not a peer'—not equal in the sense of being an 'odd' person or one of three appointed to decide a question in dispute.

UPHOLSTERER. Originally 'upholdster', and literally, a servant who 'held goods up' for the inspection of prospective buyers, with a later extension of the meaning to include one whose work involved making goods look attractive to the purchaser by added decoration.

URCHIN. An Old English word meaning a 'hedge-hog'. By various transitions the word came to mean a goblin or elf because of the supposition that they sometimes assumed the form of a hedgehog; at about the same time, namely in the sixteenth century, the word was used to refer to a deformed person, a hunchback likened in appearance to a goblin, and finally the word took on the meaning of a roguish youngster or merely, any child.

USA. In Santo Domingo, the natives have adopted this word and given it the meaning of 'sad-

dlebag', for the reason that some years ago the only saddlebags they saw belonged to the American army and were marked 'USA'.

UTOPIA. Literally 'nowhere', from Greek 'ou' not, and 'topos', place. The word was first used by Sir Thomas More in his book *Utopia*, published in 1516, in which he described an island having a perfect social and political system.

VACCINE. From Latin 'vacca', a cow, so called because the virus used in vaccination was produced in cows.

VALENCE. Named for the town of Valence, in France.

VALET. A variant form of the word 'varlet'.

VANADIUM. This metal was named in 1830 after 'Vanadis', a goddess in Scandinavian mythology. The name was supplied by Sefström, who found this element in iron ore. It had, however, been discovered in 1801 by Del Rio, who found it in certain Mexican lead ores, and who gave it the name of Erythronium.

VANDAL. One of a tribe of North Germanic people who, in the fourth and fifth centuries, conquered western and southern Europe. The present meaning of the word dates probably from the useless destruction of monuments and buildings by these tribesmen in their sacking of Rome in 455.

Another form of the word is preserved in German 'wandeln', to wander.

VANDYKE. A type of beard as worn by the Flemish painter, Sir Anthony Vandyke.

VASELINE. Literally, 'water-oil', from German 'wasser' and Greek 'elaion'.

VATICAN. Originally the name of the hill upon which the Pope's official residence was built.

VAUDEVILLE. French, originally 'vau de vire' and 'vau de ville'. The complete expression was 'chanson du vau de Vire', literally 'song of the valley of Vire', in Normandy. The name has been taken from songs written by Oliver Besselin who lived in Vire in the fifteenth century, and was later applied to stage productions interspersed with songs of a satirical or topical nature.

VELVET. Ultimately from Latin 'villus', meaning 'shaggy hair', with a probable reference to the material before it has been evenly cut or trimmed.

VENISON. From Latin, 'venari', to hunt. The Latin noun, 'venationem', hunting, had no reference to the flesh of an animal.

VENTRILOQUIST. Literally a 'belly-talker', one who talks without moving his lips.

VERDIGRIS. From Anglo-French 'vert de Grece', meaning 'green of Greece'. Whatever may

have been the connotation of the final syllable of the word, it has long been lost and no adequate explanation of its meaning has been offered.

VERMICELLI. Because of its shape, has been taken from the Latin 'vermis', a worm. The Latin word is the root of both 'vermin' and 'worm'.

VERONICA. An interesting suggestion of the origin of this word is that it is taken from the Latin 'vera ikonika', meaning 'true image'. The reference is to the legendary girl who offered her handkerchief to Jesus on His way to Calvary. With it He wiped the sweat from His face, and when it was returned to the girl it bore His likeness. She was later called St. Veronica and the handkerchief, it is supposed, is now preserved in St. Peter's in Rome.

VESTIGE. A mere trace, from Latin 'vestigium', a foot-step.

VETO. A Latin word meaning 'I forbid'.

VICTORIA. A type of carriage favored by Queen Victoria of England.

VINEGAR. Literally 'eager wine', from French 'vin', wine, and 'aigre' the second part of which has the sense of 'sharp', in simulation of its taste.

VOGUE. In the sense of the prevailing fashion, is a French word meaning 'sway', from an earlier word meaning 'to set sail', from which developed the sense of uncertainty that the word involves.

VOLCANO. Named for Vulcan, the Roman god of fire, who forged thunderbolts for Jupiter. From his name also comes the word 'vulcanize'.

VOLT. Unit of electromotive force named after A. Volte, the Italian physicist.

VOLUME. Ultimately from Latin 'volvere', to roll. A 'volumen' was a 'roll of writing', that is, a long manuscript rolled off one rod on to another as the reading progressed. These rolls were the predecessors of the modern books.

VULCANIZE. Named after Vulcan, in Roman mythology, the god of fire.

VULGAR. From Latin 'vulgus', meaning the 'common people'.

WAIF. A word that has travelled from the wind swept shores of Iceland where 'veif' meant 'anything flapping about', hence an ownerless object or animal.

WAINSCOT. Probably from two Dutch words meaning 'wave' and 'board', referring to the wavy grain in the wood.

WAIST. As a Middle English word 'wast' had a meaning allied to 'wax', in the sense of 'to grow'. When one 'waxed' larger it was usually at the waist that the growth was most evident.

WALNUT. Literally a nut of foreign origin, from Old English 'wealh', meaning 'foreign'. See Welsh.

WALRUS. Of Icelandic origin meaning a "horse-whale". 'Ross' is German for 'horse'.

WASSAIL. This word has its origin in the Anglo Saxon expression 'wes hal',—'be thou whole' or well. These words were used in drinking another's health, and in a single word survived to mean a drinking party.

WATT. A unit of electric power named for the English engineer James Watt.

WEDGWOOD. A type of pottery named for the inventor, Josiah Wedgwood.

WEDLOCK. An Old English word meaning a 'gift to the bride', hence the state of marriage which the gift evidences.

WEED. Or 'weeds', in the sense of a garment worn by a widow has no connection etymologically with the same word meaning wild or growing plants. The former is Old English 'waede' and the latter, of the same origin, is 'weod'.

WELSH. A word which in Old English was used to describe any foreign tribe, and finally in the form 'waelisc' became permanently attached to the Welsh.

WENCH. This word since the days of the Anglo Saxons has taken a long downward path. Its original form was 'wencel', meaning, 'an infant'.

WESLEYAN. A member of the religious denomination founded by John Wesley.

WHACK. An imitative word.

WHEAT. So called from the whiteness of the grain. In Old English the word was 'hwaete', which is also the root of 'white'.

WHIPPOORWILL. So named in imitation of its cry.

WHISKEY. From Gaelic 'uisge' meaning 'water' used in connection with 'beatha', literally 'water of life'. The word has survived in a word in current use, namely, 'usquebaugh', a whiskey or Irish brandy.

WHISTLE. An imitative word.

WHITSUN. Literally White Sunday, the seventh Sunday after Easter because on that day christenings were usual, and therefore white robes were commonly worn on that day.

WINDOW. Literally 'wind eye', from Old Norse 'vindauga'. The separate parts of this word are preserved practically intact in German. The word 'window' apparently dates back to a time when air was considered more necessary than light in a room.

WISEACRE. Literally wise-sayer, is in no way related to the current word 'acre', but is cognate with the Norse 'saga'.

WISTARIA. A flowering shrub, or tree named for the American anatomist, C. Wistar.

WITHER. From Middle English 'widren', meaning to 'expose to the weather'; the effect is expressed in the modern word, which formerly described the cause.

WORMWOOD. This word has no connection with worms or wood. It is from German 'Wermuth', and literally means 'ware mood', that is, a preserver of the mind.

WORSTED. A woollen yarn, made at Worstead in Norfolk, England.

WREATH. This word has come to dignity from its lowly beginning as a bandage, although as far back as Aelfric, twisted or coiled metal used as an ornament bore the name 'writha'.

WRITE. The origin of writing in England is disclosed by the meaning of the root of this word, namely, writan, to cut. Runic letters, probably the first to be used in England, were cut in stone. A related form of the word is German 'reissen', to tear. The Latin verb 'scribere', to write is preserved in the word scribble.

XANTHIPPE. A shrewish wife, named for Xanthippe, the wife of Socrates.

YACHT. From Dutch 'jacht', so called because of its speed and perhaps related to the German 'jagen', to hunt, with an allusion to the speed necessary for success in the chase.

YANKEE. An American Indian corruption of 'English' or the French form 'Anglais'. The Indian original was 'Yengees'.

YAP. Imitative of a fussy bark.

YARD. Another form of the word 'garden'.

ZEPHYR. From Greek 'zephuros', the west wind.

ZEPPELIN. Named for Count Zeppelin, the German designer of a dirigible balloon.

ZEST. In English its first sense was a 'shred of lemon peel'; in Old French, 'the skin of a walnut kernel', both of which have the quality of stimulating flavor.

ZIG-ZAG. From German zick-zack which was formed by a repetition of the word 'zacke', a 'prong'. A vowel change has occurred in the first syllable.

ZINNIA. A plant named for the German botanist, J. G. Zinn.

ZION. From Hebrew 'Tsiyon', meaning 'hill'.

NOTES

Among the words in this book are included a number of imitative words, that is, those which are a translation of certain sounds into English. The origin of these words is, therefore, obvious, but it is interesting to note that they are not translated into all languages by the same letters or sounds. They produce various effects upon those who speak different languages. Several years ago a Committee affiliated with New York University published a report upon an investigation into this class of words. Some of the results were:

'Bang' appears in Dano-Norsk as 'banke'; in French as 'pan' or 'pang'; in German as 'boun'; in Italian as 'poom'; in Portuguese as 'peng' or 'poong'; in Russian as 'hlopnnyootye' and in Spanish as 'poom'.

'Buzz' sounds like 'sooren' in Dano-Norsk; 'hronzen' in Dutch; 'boordonnay' in French; 'zoomen' in German; 'sussurare' in Latin; 'zoozoorar' in Portuguese; 'zoo-zarye' in Russian and 'zoombar' in Spanish.

'Hiccup' is 'hikken' in Dano-Norsk; 'hik' in Dutch; 'oquet' in French; 'singultus' in Latin; 'otrishkye' in Russian and 'hipar' in Spanish.

A cat may 'mew' and 'purr' in English; but it

makes such sounds as 'myaulen' and 'snooren' in Dano-Norsk and Dutch; 'miaulay' and 'ronronnay' in French; 'myauen' and 'shrooren' in German; 'myauchech' and 'mruchech' in Polish; 'meyahr' and 'ronronneahr' in Portuguese; 'myaukatye' and 'moorchatye' in Russian; 'ma-oolyar' and 'ronronear' in Spanish.

A 'tom-tom' sounds alike to all except the Dutch, who pronounce it 'trommeln'.

'Splash' is 'plasken' in Dano-Norsk; 'plassen' in Dutch; 'platchen' in German and 'plyesskatye' in Russian.

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